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Kaas, Grace.
History of Verona, N.J.,
1702-1907

HISTORY

of

VERONA, N. J.

Grace Kaas

W
S
N
E
Ettenborough Pond
Grist Mill
Old Vernon Valley Rd. 1850
Later Corby, Lane 1859
now Lakeside Av.
Slayback
Dammed by Bone 1814
1830 Called Ettenboro Pond
Verona Lake
Peckman Brook
Old Peckmantown Rd. 1807 now Grove Av.
later Gould Lane
Stagg's Mill 1790
later Amer. Bronze
Res. Nich. Stagg
Peter Riker 1776
Pometon Pike
Old Turnpike Rd. 1806
Prospect St. 1850
Orange
1850 boundary
Martin Rd. 1850
Cedar Grove
Prop. Map
OF OLD VERONA 1730-1887 Notes of Interest
Placements from Old Maps.
Placements "A Hist. of Verona" by G. Kaas.
Old Grist Mill 60x60 - 4 stories high.
Difference of opinion as to early history of mill:
One faction says that Jn. 1830 Ettenborough built it
Then Ch. Hopkins owned - 1869 - Grist mill to
Meggs Corley Cornelius Jacobus
Jn. 1830 Ettenborough agree that Cornelius Jacobus owned mill
Both factions agree that Wm. Slayback
Sp. 1861 - Peter Urman & Wm. Slayback owned
1875 to 1893 - Peter Urman & Wm. Slayback owned;
Mose Jacobus - Mill built - Early owners were:
1790 - Stagg's Mill built - Early owners were:
Mose Jacobus - Nich. Stagg & Corn. Jacobus
1814 Peter Jacobus - (Brush Fact. began here)
1816 Amer. Bronze bought it. Founder W. Grosch
Brush Fact. - First founded in Stagg's Mill
1838 - Brush Fact. built own Rockland Terrace
later moved to Grove Lane then across
street from present local. Finally to pres. loc.
Other Stores & its opened in order of succession
First Store & its opened by Caleb Baldwin
1837 - John & Caleb Baldwin
1850 - J. C. Ward & C. H. Baldwin
1859 - C. H. Baldwin & Joel D. Mead
1861 - Sam Baldwin - Store burned this year
1867 - Sam Scott rebuilt
1874 - W. Scott & Bennett
1893-97 Chas. Simonson
Later Douglas & Crane
Post Office: Post Master Joel D. Mead
1857 - 1st Post Office here.
1893 - Post office moved to drug store
Arrival store was run by J. S. Gould.
1850 - Running of Office of J. S. Gould.
1854 - Dr. Personette had office here.
Betw. 1850 & 1857, Vernon Valley became
Verona... Built a.c. Feb. 1911 by Carl Pease.
1859 - Verona extended this far into Orange
Meth. Episc. Ch. - 1st church in Vernon Valley
1873 - Founder D. Beach: C. Bone gave property
1873 - Galleries on lots removed: Steeple added
1770 - 1st Horse-Neck school in Vernon.
1831 - Stewart's wooden school house
1831 - Brick Sch. built. A Gould owned prop.
1848-1853 - Baptist Sund. Sch. deny held here
1838 - Mt. Prospect Institute for boys & girls.
1839 - Mt. House Tavern - torn down 1934
Pase Coach "rendez-vous"
1790 - Dr. Bone picked herbs for medicine here
Toll Gate - Maintained till 1819. Keepers were
1850 - Jacob Braine - 1857 Jim Styles
Bibliography -
1850 - Hiram Belding Map of Vernon Valley.
1851 - Thomas Hughes Map of Verona.
1854 - Walling's Map
1874 - Mathew Hughes Map
1878 - C. H. Hulbert Map
1891 - Hyde & Co. Road Chart
Isaac Riker 1794
Jas. Bossie
Randall
Old Kent Homestead 1776
D. McCarty ice house
Isaac Riker
E. McCloud
J. Van Rivers
Jere. Reister store
Gould Mansion
Personette
Dr. S. Personette
G. Personette farm 1740
Dr. H. Whitehorne
A. J. Parkhurst
C. Low
J. J. Goble
J. W. Goble
P. Dexheimer
City Home Property
Steven Walker
H. Walker
J. Brower
Mil. McConnell
Jos. Randall
Ed. Jacobus
W. H. Arnaux
C. Monroe
J. Simonson
Drug Store
P. Office
Steam Mill
Jacobus & Gould
Meth. Episc. Ch. 1833
J. & C. Baldwin Store 1834
Store & Post-office 1859
A. B. Decamp-butcher
W. Canfield-blacksmith
A. S. Gould
School
C. Bone-1794 Breno
Calamus Swamp
Dan Haight
Spoke Factory of C. & Jas. Jacobus
Wm. Williams
W. Miles
A. Wilson
Elijah Hedden Res.
Wellman's Shoe Shop
Zabine
A. Hedden & sisters
Ettenborough
D. Brooks
J. Hawthorne
Zeke Williams
W. Miller
J. Mackey
W. Wilson
E. C. Corby
M. Ward
1776 - Capt. Condit
E. C. Stutts
Wheaton
G. W. Dorr
J. Mills
E. N. Cavallo
Hiram Cook
C. Ingalls
J. Hokorst
P. Birdseye
Mrs. Jaeger
Keiper
M. De Witt
A. Raabe
Coerper
1776 Nath. Baldwin
Pow's Mill 1826
Carriage Steps
F. Seiler rag shop
C. Smith
Anne De Golier
Brookdale Av. 1873
M. Baldwin Smoke house
Thorndike-Saunders
E. Baldwin
Carroll
C. Goble
G. Keifer
M. Bradys
J. E. Williams rag shop
C. Williams
Rev. J. A. Breid
W. Martin
P. Martin
E. C. Martin
John & Rhoda Corbie 1807
M. Bowden 1807
S. Crump
Sam Tuttle
Cre. Hastings
Deville
J. Fentsleff
P. Cook
Shoe Shop
W. H. Baletree
J. Ouglebee
Dexheimer
Thos. Young
T. M. Morgan
Dr. Davenport 1830
Littell
Toll House
B. S. Shop
Jacob Braine
-Toll Keeper 1850
W. B. Bloomfield 1850
Now Montclair
Moses Dodd 1804
Butters
Weidemer
Thankful Parkhurst
Mrs. H. Lloyd
Mrs. A. Taylor
H. A. Pyke
Anthony
A. F. Furris
Wm. Harris
Enos Crane
Martin
Clark Mills
S. Woodford
Wm. Power
H. Clapp
H. Harrington
H. Ronnell
Janer's Shop
Tier
Dimmock
Avery
Sigler
W. Torrey
W. Holmes
Mrs. Sherry
A. Crane
J. Williams
J. Wakeman
Butters 1730
Jim Styles 1857
Mt. Prospect Schl. 1838
Later Mt. House 1859
M. Stone
Jas. Styles 1857
C. Frame
Ezek. Corby 1800
Mrs. F. Sundelhill
Thom Neary
V. Corraz
Lindley
J. Hurth
Crington
Bennet
Hornbeck
Blackburn
Capt. Horine
Capt. Pease
Capt. W. Perkins
Capt. W. Boxter
D. H. Dobbins
Daumonter
Jacobus Store 1870
Lived there
Chas. Cushtreman
Smithy & Wh. Rite Shop
J. S. Simonson's
J. S. Hedden
Ettenborough Bakery
Corn. Jacobus
C. Bahr
Lem. Jacobus
1790 J. N. Dobbins
S. M. Gould
1830 Lem. Jacobus
Mrs. King & M. Epsc. Parsonage
1838 Brush Fact.
Cannift
J. & C. Baldwin
Mrs. Walsh
A. Davenport-smithy
J. Rung
Pine Grove
Pine Hill
Stout
Pond
Braine
Randle
Zulett
Wandle
Mrs. Dickerson
C. Dickerson
Mrs. King
Thos. Neary
Lindley
Sundelhill
Conait
Bennet
Hurth
Crington
Horne
Pease
Perkins
Boxter
Dobbins
Jacobus
Bahr
Hedden
Stutts
Condit
Corby
Ward
Dorr
Mills
Cavallo
Cook
Ingalls
Hokorst
Birdseye
Jaeger
Keiper
De Witt
Raabe
Coerper
Baldwin
Hart
Corby
Shaffer
Weidemer
Pyke
Taylor
Lloyd
Crane
Parkhurst
Thankful
Anthony
Furris
Harris
Bloomfield
Dodd
Butters
Martin
Clark
Mills
Woodford
Power
Clapp
Harrington
Ronnell
Tier
Dimmock
Avery
Sigler
Torrey
Holmes
Sherry
Crane
Williams
Wakeman
Styles
Frame
Stone
Hastings
Tuttle
Crump
Bowden
Corbie
Breid
Martin
Williams
Keifer
Goble
Bradys
Young
Morgan
Davenport
Littell
Baletree
Ouglebee
Dexheimer
Shoe Shop
Carroll
Baldwin
Thorndike
Saunders
Smoke house
Brookdale Av.
Anne
De Golier
Coerper
Raabe
Hokorst
Ingalls
Birdseye
Jaeger
Keiper
Cavallo
Mills
Dorr
Wheaton
Stutts
Condit
Ward
Corby
Mackey
Wilson
Hedden
Zabine
Wellman
Hawthorne
Williams
Miller
Brooks
Ettenborough
Hedden
Wilson
Miles
Williams
Williams
Williams

A. Davenport smithy
J. Runs
Mrs. Walsh
J & C. Baldwin
Canniff
1838 Brush Factory
1830 Lem. Jacobus
S. M. Gould
1790 J. N. Dobbins
Mrs. King & M. Epse. Parsonage
J. Simonson's
Smithy & Wm. Rite
J. Steeden Shop
J. Stuart
Ettenborough Res.
Stone of Ch. Jacobus
Corn Jacobus
C. Baby
Chas. Bogleher ran Jacobus Store 1870 & lived there
Dawmonton
Demont
Hornbeck
Blackburn
Capt. Perkins
Capt. Pease
Capt. Horine
Capt. W. Barter
D. H. Dobbins
Mrs. F. S. Lindenhill
Condit
Mrs. Bickerson
Ezek. Cat. Hitt 1800
Cr. Hopkins
C. King
Thorn Henry
Lindley
V. Cortaz
J. Hirth
Cinnati
Stuart Hartford
Old Vernon Valley Rd. 1850
Later Corby Lane 1859
now Lakeside Av.
Sleyback
Grist Mill
Ettenborough Pond
Wood Bridge
Spooke
W. M.
Elias
Wellington
Zabr.
A. H.
Ett.
D. B.
J. Zer.
J. Mackey
W. Wilson
1776 - Capt. Condit
E. L. Corby
M. Ward
E. C. Stutts
Wheaton
G. W. Dorr
J. Mills
E. N. Cavallo
Hirem Cook
C. Ingalls
J. Hokorst
P. Birdseye
Mrs. Jaeger
Reipter
M. De Witt
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Coerper
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C. Goble
G. Keifer
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Clarkemony Ave.
Old Wagon Sessions Rd. 1716
Old Turnpike Rd. 1806
Dexter
Shop
W. H. Baldwin Shop
J. Cugtree
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1814 Called Ettenboro Pond
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1873 Verona Lake
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Randle
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1850 boundaries
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J. C. Hart
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Moses Dodd 1804
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Mrs. A. Payter
H. A. Pyke
Anthony
A. P. Purvis
Wm. Harris
Thorndike-Saunders
E. Baldwin
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Butterstown Rd. 1833
Dr. Davenport 1830
Littell
Thos. Young
T. M. Morgan
B. S. Shop
Toll House
B. S. Shop
Jacob Braine
-Toll Keeper 1850
W. Bloomfield 1850
Now Montclair
Jim
Mt.
Late
M. Stor

GEN

5577

History of Verona, N. J.

1702-1907

Allen County Public Library
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History of Verona, N. J.

1702 - 1907

By Grace Kaas

Illustrated by Margaret Kerr

Grace Kaas

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by Grace Kaas

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TO MARGARET GLASBY

LIBRARIAN OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE BOROUGH OF VERONA

WITHOUT WHOSE ENCOURAGEMENT

THIS HISTORY WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN STARTED

WITHOUT WHOSE GUIDANCE

THE MATERIAL COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ASSEMBLED

AND

WITHOUT WHOSE GENTLE PRODDING

THE STORY MIGHT NEVER HAVE BEEN FINISHED.

Appreciation

We are very much under obligation to a long list of people who have very freely given of their time to recall much of Verona's early history and who have lent us their own personal records and pictures. In many cases there have been conflicting versions of the same story in which event we have made every honest effort to check carefully all possible sources. Even so we cannot yet be sure that what is set down here is accurate. In chronicles such as this where written records have not always been kept intact, inaccuracies are liable to creep in. We offer this only as our very best effort to arrive at the probable truth.

The Library would be more than glad to have any errors called to its attention so that the history of Verona may be preserved as free from error as possible.

Special acknowledgment should be made to Miss Margaret Kerr who not only has done the illustrations in the book but has performed such a scholarly and painstaking job in reconstructing from the very few existing old maps the map of Verona as it was about the year 1830. This has involved a very careful checking and rechecking and does much toward recalling Verona as it was a hundred years ago.

There follows a list of the people who have been more than helpful in assembling this material:

Mrs. Clinton D. Baldwin
Mr. and Mrs. William Baldwin
Mrs. Matilda Barmore
Mrs. Anna Beebe
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Bone
Mrs. Elizabeth Brady
Mr. Thomas Brooks
Mrs. David Burd
Mr. Gustav Cimiotti
Mr. Filmore Condit
Mrs. George Davenport
Mr. Hassel Davenport
Miss Henrietta Davenport
Mr. Norman Davenport
Mrs. James Demarest
Miss Margaret Glasby
Mrs. Anna Gould
Mrs. Emma Gould
Mrs. Evelyn Davenport Gould
Mrs. John Halsted

Mr. Clarence Hedden
Miss Frances Hornfeck
Mr. Roland Jacobus
Mr. Will Jacobus
Mr. Pitt Johnson
Miss Margaret Kerr
Mrs. Randolph Luttgens
Miss Josephine Mahon
Mrs. Clara McLeod
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph North
Mrs. Adolph Ott
Mr. Robert Palm
Mr. Henry Pallidino
Mr. Stephen Rich
Dr. Charles G. Richards
Mr. Edwin C. Schmid
Mr. and Mrs. David Slayback
Miss Helen Whitehorn
Mrs. Horace Wilcox
Mrs. John Williams
Mrs. Kate Worman
Mrs. Paul Zing

Early History of Horseneck

"A horseneck is what it resembles," said some imaginative settler as he stood on the ridge of First Mountain looking westward over the Newarkers' latest purchase from the Indians about two hundred and thirty years ago. And so dubbed, "Horseneck" it remained. Within its boundaries have grown up a dozen or more communities. Forming the nucleus, were the Caldwells, encircled on the south by Roseland, Livingston and West Orange, on the west by Hanover and Pinebrook. To the north lay the marshy lowlands of the Passaic where wild hay grew,—a terrain that looked so familiar and inviting to the Dutch who settled through Fairfield and Montville. On the rough stony mountain land, still heavily wooded, to the southeast Essex Fells developed. And on the east, in the fertile and pleasant valley of the gentle Peckman River, sheltered east and west by First and Second Mountains, life began in Verona, known then as Vernon Valley. So although the incorporation of Verona as a borough dates only from 1907, its history goes back to the early seventeenth century.

We may even pick up the threads a bit earlier. First Mountain, familiarly known as Montclair Hill was named "Wachtschungk" meaning "on the hill" by its original inhabitants, the Lenni Lenapes, often called the Delawares by the English. They were subsequently beaten and driven out by the Iroquois from Pennsylvania and New York. These tribes were friendly to both the English and Dutch settlers, due largely no doubt to the fact that all land taken from them was adequately paid for and their rights fully respected. Consequently there were few if any casualties from Indian massacres. What is now approximately the state of New Jersey, they called Scheyichli. In this neighborhood the largest village was

Hackensack and here dwelt Chief Oraton who played such an important role in the purchase of Newark. In Essex County proper we find little or no evidence of a permanent settlement of any size, i.e., no household implements have been found. However plenty of arrows, spear heads, axes and hammers, articles of war or of hunting, have been uncovered which would lead us to the assumption that this might have been a favorite battle or hunting ground. At any rate, there were Indians in the picture, if only transients, but even these had been segregated in the reservation in Burlington County by 1776. A full-blooded Indian writing in 1832 says of New Jersey "Not a drop of our blood have you spilled in battle, not an acre of our land have you taken without our consent,"—an enviable record.

The settlement of Essex County by the whites began when the thirty families from Connecticut landed at what is now Saybrook Place, Newark, on May 21, 1666. This little group, fathered by Robert Treat, Jaspar Crane, and Curtis, was the parent colony of a numerous offspring. Disgruntled with conditions at home, they looked for their promised land of religious and civil liberty in their new home called after their native city of Newark-on-Trent in England. Ambitious, enterprising, pioneering, these men and their descendants pushed the boundaries of their original purchase north, west, and south, sprinkling the county with small communities that grew into the Oranges, Belleville, Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Montclair, in addition to all the Horseneck progeny.

Settling originally on a tract extending west of the Passaic River as far as the foot of the first Watchung Mountain (Montclair Hill) and from Bound Creek (in the Weequahic section) north to Second River in Belleville, they spread out over the county in two great leaps and bounds. Their second purchase of land from the Indians stretched their western boundary to the crest of the Mountain, about seven square miles, a long narrow strip running from Springfield Avenue, Millburn, north to the boundary of Passaic County. This brought Montclair into the picture. With their third purchase, the history of Verona begins. From the old Newark Town Records we read, "At a town meeting in Newark, October 2, 1699, first it was agreed by the generosity of the town that they would endeavor to make a purchase of a tract of land lying west of our bounds, to the south branch of the Passayak River and such of the town as do contribute to the purchase of said land shall have

their proportion according to their contribution." There were just ten persons who did contribute to the purchase of said land,—and to them we owe our existence. In the same year a committee was appointed to negotiate with the Indians and in 1701 the purchasers, disregarding a decree that all grants to land must be secured from lord proprietors, laid up future trouble for themselves by negotiating directly with the Indians for all land "westward or northwest of Newark, within the compass of the Passayak River and so southwest to Monusing (or Minisink)—all lands as yet unpurchased of the Heathen." According to the statement in a later Bill of Chancery, this tract included twenty square miles or about 13,500 acres for which the munificent sum of 130 pounds or 650 dollars was paid. The ridge of the mountain, our Prospect Avenue formed the eastern boundary. Monusing Path, the southern boundary, lay approximately where Mt. Pleasant Avenue climbs the hill. Cook's Bridge across the Passaic connecting Livingston and Hanover was the western boundary and Pine Brook, Fairfield, Great Notch, and Cedar Grove the northern. The deed to this land was executed by the Indian Chiefs March 1702 and confirmed by their successors in 1741 or 1742 but unfortunately for the owners was lost by fire in the home of Reverend Pierson of Newark in 1744—all of which made later history.

Upon every original settler in Newark were bestowed three pieces of land, one in the immediate vicinity of what is now Broad and Market Streets where was located the town pump, known as his "town lot," one in the salt meadows to the east, known as his "pasturage lot" and one on the outskirts, on or near the mountain, which was his "farmwood lot." The thrifty settler then proceeded to stake out his claim in the mountains and the records have it—"as boys and girls grew up and became men and women and got married they often went away to the farmwood lot of their fathers" —and lived happily ever after, if we may presume, in what is now Western Essex.

But it was slow work. These tracts were used at first for their timber. By 1700, only a few adventurous spirits had climbed to the top of the mountain. There was no urge driving the Newarkers on, life was too comfortable and pleasant at their own firesides on the banks of the Passayak. Up to 1740 the common fence of Newark was still kept; only gradually families moved beyond. Besides, there was always a vague fear of the Indians and the difficulties of travel were an ever present handicap.

There were only two trails leading out of the little settlement in Newark over the mountains. These were old Indian trails probably made by the Lenni Lenapes traveling between the Delaware and the Hudson. They were later used by the Indians living in the hills around Boonton who in the spring of every year trekked cross country to fish in the ocean. They crossed the mountain where the grades were easiest,—one where Bradford Avenue now cuts through at Upper Montclair known to the settlers as Van Giesen's Gap and the other, known as Crane's Gap, is our present Claremont Avenue. Later, also following breaks in the mountain, Eagle Rock Road and Mt. Pleasant Avenue were used.

By the close of the seventeenth century, we find the line of settlement slowly but surely pushing westward from the original Newark settlement. In 1720 there were more wigwams than cabins in Horseneck. There were approximately thirty-five families in the whole area, which number in 1725 had increased to fifty. On the Montclair side of the mountain, however, there was a fair-sized settlement by this time, known as Cranetown. In 1675 Jaspar Crane had secured his twenty acres and by the close of the century Azariah and his son Nathaniel had built the first house "at the Mountain," about where Orange Road and Myrtle Avenue intersect today. Other families soon pushed over the Mountain, names still familiar, —the Goulds, Harrisons, Baldwins, Cranes, Condits, Wards and Wades. At the same time, around the Gap, at Singac, through the Great Notch, into Cedar Grove and Fairfield came the Dutch from Bergen County and the upper end of Montclair where there was already quite a colony of them, — the Blauvelts, Van Nesses, Franciscos, Speers, Jacobuses, VanDuynes, and Vreelands. These, with a Scotch sprinkling of Campbells, Canfields and McChesneys and the French Personettes and De Camps, complete the roster of Horseneck's First Families. These people were scattered throughout the whole section and don't belong peculiarly to Verona but they lent flavor to the history and development of Verona as part of the larger community.

First Families

IN Verona itself, the earliest settler mentioned in the records is Mr. Butters who is reputed to have located near the Pompton Pike about 1730. He bought later a large tract of land in the neighborhood of the present Sunset Avenue. He had no children and except for Butterstown Road, as Sunset Avenue was originally known, the name disappeared from the early records. Part of his estates was sold to Nathaniel Baldwin in 1776. He in turn willed it to his son Lucas and then it passed into the possession of DeWitt C. Baldwin. The remnant of Butter's holdings was incorporated in the property of Calvin I. Shaffer, Zenas Crane, Charles A. Smith, Marshall Baldwin and Peter Raabie.

In 1740 there is mention of George Personette. He was of Huguenot extraction and bought extensively in the neighborhood of what is now Personette Street. He was active in the Caldwell Presbyterian Church, serving as elder in 1784. Both he and his son John, who was born on the estate in 1751, and later moved to Cedar Grove where he built "The Long Stone House" lived to be ninety-three years old. John left ten children to carry on the name, only two of whom are identified with local history,—Joseph, who inherited the Verona property and Abram who went to Caldwell. Of Joseph's two sons, Jephtha and Stephen, the latter left a surer, clearer stamp on Verona's history. He was Dr. Bone's successor and Verona's only physician for many a day. He inherited all his predecessor's herbs as well as his practice, with headquarters in our present Moellering's Drug Store, corner of Bloomfield and Grove. His property extended from Bloomfield Avenue to Personette Street. His home was the house at 32 Grove Avenue. Beyond this was "The Grove"

and beyond "The Grove" was located the original Personette Homestead—on the northwest corner of Personette and Grove. In 1875, he was appointed physician of the County Penitentiary, and during the years 1847-1848 served in the State Legislature. An unfortunate accident ended a long and useful career. He was returning from a wedding anniversary celebration at D. C. Baldwin's about midnight February 1, 1880 when his horse bolted at the corner of Brookdale and Sunset Avenue, overturning sleigh, doctor et al. This was followed by a chill and pneumonia and several days later the good doctor died, after a long life of service to his community, a real friend to all.

By 1776 the records include Peter Riker and mention "quite a few" as living in Vernon, among whom Jonathan Condit, a Revolutionary Captain, seems to be best remembered. But the most colorful and dramatic figure, verging even on the melodramatic, was Dr. Christian Bone. He was a native of Hesse Cassel, Germany, and along with many other Hessians had been impressed into the British Army during the American Revolution. Either when his time expired or after making his escape, he joined the American cause. Without question Dr. Boone, as he himself signed his name, came into Vernon after the Revolution and not after the War of 1812 as some accounts say. Deeds conveying land to him in Horseneck date as early as 1794, 1804, and 1807. Much of his land he purchased directly from the Indians, which deeds unfortunately have been lost or stolen. For the land on which he built his homestead, he gave the Indians one pound of tobacco and "some whiskey."

Under date of February 1794, Ebenezer Dodd of the Township of Newark, County of Essex, sold to Christian Boone of the Township of Acquannonk some land adjoining the property on which he lived for eleven pounds, ten shillings.

In 1804, he bought about seventeen acres from Moses and Lois Dodd, presumably their pasture or woods-lot which was their inherited share of the third purchase by the original Newarkers from the Indians.

A deed of 1807 shows the sale by John and Rhoda Corby of Vernon to Christian Bone of the land "beginning in the middle of the turn-pike road in the line of Matthew Bowden's land thence running along said road South 56 degrees and 40 minutes East 19 chains and 24 links thence South 70 degrees East 7 chains and 7

links to Elias Baldwin's land thence along his line south 43 degrees west 6 chains and 25 links thence North 60 degrees and 40 minutes West 6 chains and 19 links to a Rock thence South 40 degrees and 40 minutes West 6 chains and 33 links thence North. North 61 degrees West 4 chains and 75 links to a Whitewood tree thence to M. Bowden's line north 31 degrees East 13 chains and 11 links to the place of beginning containing 18 acres and 38/100 of an acre."

At one time the Doctor owned all the land from the Peckman River from about Personette Street to Mackey Point in the Lake and westward up the hill to Peckmantown Road. The land on the north side of the Old Road was known as the Homestead lot, on the south side,—the Barn lot, and down by the river,—the Pasture lot. He built his home, a rather small one and a half story house, just behind where the High School stands today.

Dr. Bone receives credit for being the first to dam the Peckman River, thus giving birth to Verona Lake—in 1814. The dam and lake were to furnish water and power for a grist mill which Bone led in erecting. The tradition lingers that he said during the course of construction, "If we live a hundred years we will be divilish rich" but any glamorous future based on the milling business was doomed within the next half century by the low priced grain coming in from the middle west. Below is a copy of a bill dated March 1, 1815, reputed to be for supplies for the first mill.

BOUGHT OF MACK BEACH

10 Hundred Weight Nails 1/6	15s. 0 p.
10 Dozen Nails	16..8
3 Scoop Shovels	9..6
12 Quarts Pease	8..0
1 Horn White Lead	
2 Bottles Sweet Oil	10..0
2 Quarts Salt	1..0

The mill later passed into the hands of the Ettenburrows.

When the old doctor, a vigorous personality to the very end, died sitting at the breakfast table on Christmas morning 1845, at the age of 101, he left the following will:

"I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Mehetabel the use of my dwelling house and also use of all my land and real estate consisting of my Homestead on Riker Place containing 30 acres

and my lot of Pasture lying the East side of Peckman Brook containing 17 acres and the lot known by the name of the Barn lot lying on the south side of the Turnpike Road containing 17 acres during her natural life unless it should be necessary for some of the above land to be sold by my Executor. Two milk cows such as may be chosen and a small sorrel horse and my light spring wagon and harness and such of my household goods and furnishings as she may select and choose.

"I give and bequeath unto my son Lewis H. Bone my Dwelling House and Homestead Farm bounded on the West by the Peckmantown Road, the North side by the land of Joseph Personette, on the East Side by the Peckman River and of William T. Riker and on the South by the Old Road containing 30 acres and also the lot on the East side of the Peckman River, on the West by said River and the North by Joseph Personette and on the East by the land of Calvin Martin containing 17 acres except. . . I give and bequeath to my daughter Nancey Mackey my lot of land lying the South Side of Turnpike Road known by the name of Barn Lot."

After the death of Dr. Bone's wife and son, the property was in constant litigation, at the mercy of the courts, and was finally sold under foreclosure. A large part of what lay south of the Old Road went to Hiram Cook who developed the Lake front as a picnic ground, Eden Wilde, and on the remainder of the property built six houses occupied by Charles Birdseye, Charles H. Ingalls, George V. Dorr, E. N. Carvallo, Mrs. Jaeger and himself.

The above will was witnessed by Joseph and P. Wandell and Asa Williams. We have a clew to some of the other of the Doctor's contemporaries in the signatures of the witnesses "in favor of Christian Boone versus Jaspar Ward of Newark": William Corby, John Hall, Joseph Corby, Ira Corby, Amos Baldwin, John G. Dobbin, Nehemiah Crane, Simeon Crane, Isaac Dobbins, Nathaniel Crane, Bethreel Wheaten, Israel Brundydge, Hezekiah Avery, and Israel Corby.

Christian Bone had been a doctor of note in his native land, an herb doctor as were most of the doctors of his time but he seems to have had a happier touch than most. His widow carried on after his death as is evidenced by an old label for a bottle of his bitters signed by "Hester Bone, Widow of the late Dr. C. Bone." This particular formula is reputed to have cured every case of scrofula for which it was prescribed. It worked such a miraculous cure on a

particularly bad case of a very beautiful girl that the doctor's son, Lewis H. married her as his third wife. Following is a facsimile of the directions on the label:

DOCTOR BONE'S CELEBRATED BITTERS

DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING THEM

Take two quarts of cider and a pint and a half of West Indian molasses. Make them hot in a stone jar. Then add the bitters. When cool add two quarts of Holland gin. Let them stand for two hours and they are fit for use.

DIRECTIONS FOR TAKING THEM

Persons of delicate constitution can take a tablespoon full every four hours. Persons of a strong constitution can take a small wine glass full every four hours. Price $1.

Judging by other values of the day, this was no cheap panacea for the old doctor charged only fifty cents for a house call and twenty-five cents for an office visit. His fees he kept casually enough in an old stone crock in his office, tossing the coins in as the patient paid. His family or any one in financial need was always heartily referred "to the pot" where they could help themselves.

The doctor's reputation was no mere local one. Patients came far afield. There is a record which according to his grandson is still preserved in Bellevue Hospital, N. Y. that tells of a man suffering with cancer of the leg who was given up by the doctors of Europe and in desperation came to Dr. Bone of Horseneck. The cure was drastic but effective. The doctor's wife and professional helper heated a kettle of fat until it boiled. The leg was ripped open and the scalding fat poured in until all the diseased tissue was burned out. The doctor then treated the burn with the herbs for which he was famous. The burns healed and the man was reputed to have walked again.

At the time the Methodist Church was being organized, Dr. Bone donated the land for the building at the corner of Old Road and Peckmantown Road. According to his grandson, this gift was made with the distinct understanding that that site should forever be the location of the church building, that the Methodist Conference should hold church services and no other denomination, that the church should be open every Sunday with no other minister but a Methodist officiating, that the Bone family should forever

have the privilege of open church for funerals, christenings, and marriages and the same pew should forever be at their disposal. When, therefore, the trustees decided to sell the property and build elsewhere with the proceeds of the sale, the heirs felt that this was a violation of the spirit as well as the letter of the donor's wishes and took the case to Court. This case was lost, and the Church which Dr. Bone hoped would stand as a memorial to him became the Fire House.

Dr. Bone's grandson recalls some of the pranks played in his boyhood in Vernon. There was a large semicircular window near the roof of the mill and some of the boys had arranged the effigy of a man to appear as though he had hung himself from the rafters of the mill. This produced the desired effect on a good many people but the tables were turned on the practical jokers when one of the DeCamp boys pretended the fright had killed him. Dr. Bone who was in on the joke pronounced him dead and the perpetrator of the hoax hearing of the death caused by his joke dove through the nearest window and disappeared, until news came to him that the joke was on the joker.

At another time some boys painted a cow with something that corresponded to our phosphorescent paint, hung a bell about her neck and turned her loose on the hill back of the Davenport property. For three days all kinds of explanations were rife as to the identity of this phenomenon, visible only at night. That it was the Devil Incarnate was the popular belief. On the third day one of the Jacobus boys, in the role of intrepid hero with lantern and club solved the mystery.

We do not exactly know when the Corby family that is mentioned in the deeds to Bone's property came to Vernon. During the first half of the nineteenth century, Ezekial Corby with a large family of sons and daughters was living in a little stone house with a well-sweep out in front on Corby Lane about a mile in from the Old Road. Corby Lane later became Lakeside Avenue. The old family Bible records his birth on June 30, 1778 but fails to state where. The family intermarried with the Kent family—of Jacob Kent, a Revolutionary Captain who had also established himself in Vernon. The old house on the corner of Bloomfield and Park Avenues is the house where the present Mrs. E. Gould's mother, a Kent, went as a bride.

Throughout the century the population in Vernon grew but slowly until in 1830 there were estimated to be about fifty families,

clustered on farms either side of the Old Road. These families then formed the nucleus of the town,—the Corbys, Harrisons, Dobbins, Smiths, Jacobuses, Davenports, Heddens, Goulds, Baldwins, Kents, Ettenburrows, Peases, Ochletrees, and Martins.

The whole community of Horseneck had gained questionable distinction during the middle of the eighteenth century for staging what has since been known as the Horseneck Riots. Their significance lay in the fact that they represented the first armed resistance to English tyranny in New Jersey. Seeds of the trouble were sown at the time the tract was purchased, when the Newarkers ignored an act of the Colonial Assembly forbidding direct purchase from the heathen without consent of the proprietors. In 1702 New Jersey had become a crown colony of Queen Anne but later was restored to the heirs of the original proprietors, Sir George Carteret and Lord William Berkeley. In some cases the new proprietors demanded payment for land for which the Indians had already been paid. In other cases, land bought and paid for was disposed of to others.

Unfortunately Fate had done the settlers a bad turn when the original deed to the whole tract was burned on March 4, 1744 for the proprietors claimed that the duplicate deed later drawn up was fraudulent, negotiated by Andrew the Big Chief hired for the occasion. So the controversy proceeded apace until one fine day Nehemiah Baldwin of Orange was seized as he was cutting timber on his woods lot in Fairfield, for not holding a legitimate title to his property, by an armed force sent out from Perth Amboy, the colonial capitol. He was taken to Newark and jailed, whereupon the good citizens of Horseneck held an indignation meeting somewhere within the limits of Vernon and with one mind proceeded to march the ten long miles upon the Newark Jail, armed with flintlock guns, scythes and threshing flails, to demand the release of their prisoner. This riot, albeit a bloodless one, was a formidable enough looking crusade but with no spilling of blood chalked up against them! Their prisoner was handed over to them upon demand.

However, the settlement of the titles' dispute was not so summary. There were protracted lawsuits decided finally in favor of the proprietors, and the settlers had to pay or abandon their farms—all of which added its quota to the hatred of England now increasing daily. By 1774 all technicalities were settled. A map, the original still on exhibit at the New Jersey Historical Society, was

drawn up by Thomas Milledge showing the tracts as assigned to each of the one hundred fifty landowners in western Horseneck. Unfortunately this map does not extend beyond the present eastern boundary of Caldwell so does not enlighten us as to the exact number and location of settlers in Vernon.

After the settler had secured his title, he set about building his home—usually a frame building although the more thrifty and prosperous Dutch used stone—of one and a half stories with two rooms on the ground floor. They were made of logs whose upper and lower sides had been bevelled with the broad axe. At first the chimneys were also of logs filled with baked clay, an enormous fire hazard. Later they were built of brick. Projecting from the kitchen wall in many of the Vernon houses were the masonry ovens. On baking days, a fire was kept going until the dome was white hot and then raked out leaving only the embers in which the baking was done. It required no little skill to know just when the heat was right for a custard or a cake, or half a dozen loaves of bread. Sometimes all three were baking at the same time, each having been put in at the psychological moment, and all this without benefit of oven thermometer. It was no mean art that could tell the exact temperature at which to do a custard—and not undo it.

After the land was cleared, usually by girdling the trees, pear and apple trees were set out, hence the famous Jersey Lightning. Every farm raised its own corn and pastured its own live stock, having at least one cow and two pigs, which foraged at will. The emphasis then fell on fencing "out" your neighbors' cattle instead of fencing "in" your own. As late as 1874, the householder was admonished to build his fences hog tight and steer high. Strayed and lost cattle were ever a bone of contention in those days—as the following story illustrates. About a hundred years ago a man named John Styles carried on a cattle business, buying in the western part of the State and driving the cattle to Newark. Late one day he arrived at his house at the top of Montclair hill and put his cattle in his yard for the night. During the night one of his cows got away and into the cow-yard of a man named Martin. The following morning Martin found the animal and turned it out in the road. It wandered away and was lost. Styles sued Martin for loss and was awarded a judgment. Martin had little money but plenty of land and paid the judgment by deeding Styles a lot on the summit of the Mountain, upon which land long afterward the Hotel Montclair was built. Stray animals usually were taken to the

pound, quite an institution in those days, and the Pound Master and Hog Reeve were always considered important officers of the community.

Every fall the hogs were slaughtered and lard and sausage laid up for the winter. There were sides of pork to pickle, and hams and shoulder to smoke. Not every one had his own smoke house. Often one man did the smoking for the neighborhood and Marshall Baldwin's smoke house, with its hickory twigs kept burning for a week, earned a prize reputation.

Corn mush and Johnny Cake were staple articles of diet until well after the Civil War. Yellow dock leaves were a substitute for spinach and early milk weed shoots for asparagus. Game was plentiful. About nine-tenths of the game had to be trapped for the old flintlock and matchlock guns were too cumbersome. The Passaic lowlands abounded in wild ducks and geese, and buck-shot fired into a flock would bring down dozens of victims. The streams were crowded with trout and eels, suckers, chubs, sunfish, perch, catfish, and shad. Mr. Davenport's grandmother often told how a wagonload of shad caught in the Passaic was salted down every year for the long shut-in winters. According to tradition winters in those days were winters, with the mercury around zero for weeks at a time and drifts of snow four and five feet deep lining the narrow roads. This made sleighing parties one of the most popular winter sports. Mrs. Burd recalls how DeWitt Baldwin with his team of horses and sleigh would pick up all the young people for church and afterward take them all for a ride, followed by a delicious hot oyster stew at his house. Tallow candles, salt pork, a barrel of cider in the cellar and a pigpen in the rear,—these were the sine qua non as winter approached.

A combination of linen and wool known as linsey-wolsey was the foundation of every woman's wardrobe, varying as little in style from year to year as it did from season to season. Boots and shoes were homemade,—usually a winter occupation. Some of the cobblers made the entire shoes and others shaped different kinds of lasts from well seasoned applewood and sold them to the shoe manufacturers in Orange. Most of these old cobblers kept their bench right in the bedroom. During the Civil War sizeable contracts were taken up by teams of Vernon shoemakers who cooperated to turn out their two hundred or more pairs. Six or eight men in a neighborhood worked in teams and took subcontracts for supplying the soldiers with shoes.

Wagons, horse or oxen-drawn, carried on a thriving trade between Horseneck and Newark. Cord wood, charcoal, tanbark for the Newark tanneries, butter and eggs, cider and vinegar, wheat, rye, oats, corn, buckwheat,—all helped supply the needs of Newark before the railroads were ever thought of. Some of the Vernonites took their apples and quinces as far as Washington Market in New York City. The only traffic problems the Old Road then had to struggle with were the recalcitrant cows and sheep that were constantly being driven in to market. An ingenious method of delivering live fish after a six or ten hour drive was devised by the Horseneckers. The box seat of the farm wagon with a hinged lid was filled with wet hay and the fresh fish thrown in just as they were taken from the stream. A whole shad in those days cost just thirty-five cents delivered alive at your door.

Until just before the Revolution there was not a doctor in all of Horseneck. Home remedies, slippery elm, herbs of all kinds, sassafras bark that hung from the rafters to be used for tea, were the mainstays of the sick. Occasionally an old Indian formula worked its charm. In the Davenport family was such a traditional recipe handed down from Indian times through Mr. Davenport's grandfather on his mother's side, Marshal Baldwin. Unhappily, this formula which was reputed to have cured growths of all kinds from warts to cancer, has been lost.

In Caldwell, Dr. Cyrus Pierson was the first doctor and in Vernon Dr. Bone filled that role. When he died, he left all his herbs and professional secrets to Dr. Personette who, together with Dr. H. B. Whitehorne, took his place for the next fifty or more years. Dr. Personette lived and ran his drug store at the corner of Bloomfield and Grove Avenues. There was an iron picket fence running around the place and on the corner a weeping willow tree that Dr. Personette had planted. The doctor like most medical men in country districts in his time, extracted teeth when necessary. One of his contemporaries recalls being afflicted with toothache one day in 1870. He went to the Doctor's drug store and was directed to sit on the floor. While the doctor's daughter stood behind him with her hands holding his head against her knees to steady it, the doctor pulled the tooth. After his death, for the next half century, his place as a conscientious and skillful physician was taken by Dr. H. B. Whitehorne who opened his office in 1874.

Dr. Whitehorne was born in New York City in 1846 but spent his early life with three brothers and two sisters in Mississippi. His father was Professor of Greek at a school which later became the University of Mississippi. During the Civil War it became necessary for the family to leave the South, which they did secretly with no little hazard, because of their northern sympathies. Henry Whitehorne was fifteen years old at this time.

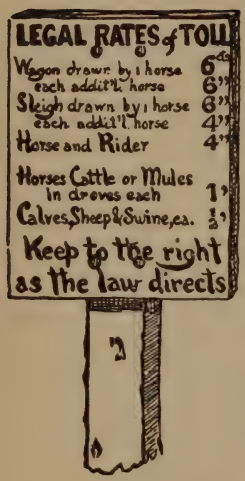
Three years later in 1864 he received a commission in the navy serving on the gunboat Wyalusing, operating against the blockade runners. He remained in the navy until 1870 spending much of the intervening time in Chinese waters. In 1868 he was present at the opening of Japanese ports to foreign trade according to the terms of the treaty made with the Mikado by Commander Perry in 1853.

After leaving the navy, he began his study of medicine at the Albany Medical College. It was after his graduation and interneship that he came to Verona and made his home at 32 Grove Avenue. He became Dr. Personette's assistant and later his very able successor and after Dr. Personette's death he became the only physician in this neighborhood. He continued his practice until shortly before his death in 1932, at the age of eighty-six.

For fifty-three years he was visiting physician of the old Newark City Home for Boys on Fairview Avenue and for thirty years of the Penitentiary. He was one of the founders of Mountainside Hospital and for a long time was staff president. He served for years on both the Board of Health and the Board of Education.

He had been active and useful in the life of Verona over a period covering more than half a century and it seemed fitting that his memory should be perpetuated in naming Verona's high school "The Henry B. Whitehorne High School."

Indian Trail to County Road



AS the community grew, it is interesting to trace the evolution of the old Indian trails that led the first settlers up the mountain. These trails were probably made by the Indians living in the mountains around Boonton. Before the whites appeared, it had been their custom to trek cross country to the ocean early in the year to catch the Spring run of fish. From an Indian trail, it had grown into a foot-path well trodden as the settlers came over the mountain on foot or on horseback, and then as more and more farm wagons and later, stages plied their way to and from Newark, a well traveled road took its place. But it became increasingly obvious that some improvement was necessary and so a stock company was organized by Israel Crane, alias King Crane, who kept a general store on the corner of what is now Glenridge and Bloomfield Avenues in Montclair. They undertook to construct a turnpike that was to start at Belleville Avenue and to run twelve miles west to Pine Brook with a branch running north at the top of the hill, now known as the Pompton Pike. With few exceptions, the new road was to follow the original one, then known only as the Old Road.

This Old Road, from Newark to Bloomfield known as Wardsession's, was laid out in 1716 and led out of Belleville Avenue in Newark at Second Avenue, up the hill to Mt. Prospect Avenue where, at Abington Avenue past the dam at Sunfish Pond, it led along Franklin Street into Bloomfield. There it coincided with our present Broad Street as far as Liberty Street. Here it turned left through Liberty to our present Bloomfield Avenue as far as Moffat's Brass Mills where it jogged north to Glenridge Avenue, thence into Montclair where it again crossed the present Bloomfield Avenue into Church Street, turned right into Orange Road and again left up Claremont Avenue across the Mountain into Claremont Avenue, Verona. Leaving Claremont Avenue at the Peckman River, it parallelled Bloomfield Avenue to Pine Street which

was again part of the Old Road. It came out again to the Avenue at the top of the hill just below Fells Road, ran along the present route as far as Elm Street in Caldwell, out again to the Avenue and from there on to Pine Brook where it terminated, the Old Road and the present county road were the same. Where the Pike ended in Pine Brook, there was a bridge across the Passaic over which the ores of Morris County were carried on the backs of mules to the smelting furnaces of Newark.

It was in 1806 that King Crane organized the Newark and Pompton Turnpike Company and secured permission from the State Legislature to widen and straighten the Old Road. The new road bed was to be of heavy stone covered with a thin layer of dirt. The stockholders paid for their stock by working on the road or lending their teams. Crane later bought out the stockholders and in turn the Essex Public Road Board bought out his heirs. Llewellyn Haskel of Orange was the man with whom the idea of county roads originated and he was instrumental in having the Board buy the Turnpike. At this time, 1891, its name was changed to Bloomfield Avenue and the surface macadamized by a new process developed by a Scotchman by the name of MacAdam.

Later when the trolleys came and sidewalks were necessary, it was found that the Turnpike had never been properly surveyed and that there were no distinct legal boundaries between the road and private property fronting on it. The county was obliged in 1898 to acquire many strips of land at fancy prices in order to provide for sidewalks. Some of the beneficaries selected at random and the prices paid, follow:

Sarah E. Holt	$225.00
Filmore Condit	35.80
Josephine Schmid	690.19
Public Common	1.00

On the Old Road were four toll gates maintained until about 1870 when the Road was made toll free. There was one at the present Newark-Bloomfield line, and one at the top of Montclair Hill, one at Pine Brook east of the River, and one at Singac on the Pompton Pike. Jacob Braino was toll keeper for Vernon about the middle of the century and he was followed by Jim Stiles as gate keeper. When Old Mr. Davenport lived at the toll-gate, he could count on the fingers of both hands all the families living between the toll-gate and Pine Brook. Each morning the toll keeper hung out

on four wooden pegs driven into a post at his gate the following information printed on a weather beaten old board:—

LEGAL RATES OF TOLL

Wagon drawn by one horse	6 cents
each additional horse	6 "
Sleigh or sled drawn by one horse	6 "
each additional horse	4 "
Horse and rider	4 "
Horses, cattle, or mules in droves, each	1 "
Calves, sheep, and swine, each	½ "

KEEP TO THE RIGHT AS THE LAW DIRECTS

It is interesting to compare traffic past this point then and now. Just before the Civil War were the palmiest days for the old Turnpike and between twenty and forty one- or two-ton trucks made a record day. Today at least that many cars slip past the traffic light in a minute.

Within Vernon Valley, the three earliest roads were Peckmantown Road now Grove Avenue, known also as Gould Lane; Butterstown Road, now Sunset Avenue; and Corby Lane, now Lakeside Avenue. There was also a short road beginning at the Condit's house on Elmwood Road and continuing over to Pompton Avenue and another beginning at the Mountain House and extending south as far as D. C. Baldwin's, corresponding to our Mt. Prospect Avenue.

Most of the traveling to and from Newark was done in the family wagon or, if Fortune had smiled, the family carriage or coach. In the early nineteenth century there was but one family that boasted such affluence, however. Bossy Randle was the only one to own a coach. Through the middle of the century the familiar figure of Mattie Wheaton could be seen daily driving his stage coach down from Parsippany to Newark. The usual procedure was down one day and back the next, although later there were as many as seven stages a day! There was also a stage run by Jim Husk, who succeeded George Harrison in 1883. The story is told of how one of the stagedrivers always opened and closed the door by means of a strap fastened to his ankle, over which thoughtless passengers frequently stumbled. This ran only as far as the Montclair station

of the D. L. & W. where you could transfer to the train for Newark or New York even as we do now. The Mountain House that stood until just recently at the intersection of Claremont and Bloomfield Avenues used to be a tavern at which all the stages traveling the Newark and Pompton Pike used to stop. The horse-cars at that time (1860-70) went only as far as Spring Street in Bloomfield and some Vernonites even walked that distance when going to Newark. One of the older women remembers as a girl starting off with her father to go to Newark shopping for a new shawl and bonnet. When he attempted to put her on the train at Montclair, she said that if he wasn't too old to walk, she wasn't too young. So they walked to Newark along the Old Road, mostly dirt road except in a very few places where sidewalks had been built. It took them all day, down in the morning and up in the afternoon. But old Charles Smith established a better record as a pedestrian than that. His granddaughter recalls the time when he used to walk back from Newark Market with an old square basket filled with fresh lobsters, to which he was very partial, carried on his arm. Toward the close of the century there were as many as seven stages a day but it was still a far cry from the ten-minute trolley schedule that we take so casually and grumble at so freely today.

Until 1896, the fare by stage, train and street car from the center of Montclair to Newark was thirty-five cents. After 1876 the partial building of the North Jersey Railroad reduced this to eleven cents.

The first trolleys to run along the Old Road were the horse cars, operated by the Newark, Bloomfield and Montclair Horse Car Railway Company. They ran their cars along Bloomfield Avenue to Mt. Prospect Avenue, Newark, thence north via a private right of way to Newark Avenue, Bloomfield and so into Bloomfield. This company went into bankruptcy and was bought out at a foreclosure sale, January 17, 1876 by the Newark and Bloomfield Street Railway Company which then laid the tracks in a straight line up the Avenue from Newark to Bloomfield as far as the Brook. By 1893, tracks had been extended as far as Caldwell with the exception of the stretch that lay within the limits of the Town of Montclair.

Here the City Council controlled by a wealthy carriage owning minority refused to grant a franchise to the North Jersey R.R. Company except on its own terms. So for a while there was a gap

in the system. Even getting the trolleys through the town to start operation on the Verona-Caldwell tracks presented quite a problem. They were finally hauled aboard horse-drawn trucks through the streets of Montclair. Crossing the railroad tracks in Caldwell presented another hazard for this early trolley. At first passengers had to walk across the tracks, changing cars at this point; later by deviating considerably from the road and charging at right angles, the trolleys negotiated the crossing.

But it was an unsatisfactory arrangement at best—and steps were being taken to overcome the opposition in Montclair. Fillmore Condit who had been a prominent citizen of Verona since 1890 tells the story in his own words. "Forty-four people came to me and asked my help in securing the franchise, as all their efforts had failed. I consented and arranged a series of pleas in leaflet form presenting strong reasons why the Montclair franchise should be granted. One of these leaflets I had delivered each day to every home in Montclair. Our final attack was in the form of a delegation to the Legislature to ask it to transfer the power to grant the franchise from the Montclair Council to the County Freeholders. We had an exciting scene before a Legislative Committee at Trenton. Five lawyers represented Montclair. Our Methodist minister and I pleaded for Verona and Caldwell. The Montclair Council capitulated and granted the franchise fifteen days after I was employed." By 1902 there was through service from Newark to Caldwell and the growth of the town received a long delayed stimulus.

In addition to his services in securing the trolley franchise, Filmore Condit contributed fully of his time and energy to his community for the ten years he lived in Verona. In April 1890, he came to Verona from Roseland and bought a large tract of land on Bloomfield Avenue about opposite the present Flag factory. He divided it into lots and improved it with streets. In a few months he had made sufficient profits to pay the entire cost of all the land as well as the new home he erected on what is now the corner of Bloomfield and Elmwood Avenues. As a memorial to his son Everett, who died in March 1911, while still a young man, he gave to the town the three and a half acres to be used for recreation purposes and to be known as Everett Park, lying east of Elmwood Road along Bloomfield Avenue.

However, those who know the intimate details of this deal are

not entirely convinced that this was not a profitable business transaction rather than one of many charitable gestures.

Here the Methodist Church often held its strawberry festivals and the pretty Verona girls who served were a sure drawing card for the youth of Montclair who came over the Mountain on their high wheeled bicycles.

Fillmore Condit became a member of the Board of Education, was a member of the County Board of Freeholders, served on the Township Committee and was instrumental in securing the installation of street lamps. His wife was also interested in real estate development, especially in Caldwell, and also in relief work among the poor. One summer they arranged with the Children's Aid Society of New York to send a party of forty-five women and children to live in tents pitched in the meadow adjoining their home. The whole family was also active in the Church and it is difficult to find any field in which they did not make some contribution.

In 1870 an effort was made to build a railway through Verona. In order to compete with the Morris and Essex branch of the Lackawanna to Morristown, surveys were made by both the Erie and the N. J. Central. As a result, the Erie proposed to extend the line from the Montclair Station through Verona to Caldwell. Had this project been completed real development in these two towns might have come at a much earlier day. A tunnel was partly excavated through the Montclair Mountain, a good deal of grading was completed on both sides of the valley and a fill partly laid across Verona Lake. Charles Smith had already donated an acre of land for a railroad station about where the Brookdale School now stands and a right of way is still preserved through this neighborhood by the Erie.

Everyone looked for a boom. The town was seething with excitement. Promoters of all kinds gathered with one accord. Maps were drawn showing the Railroad station at Brookdale Avenue and the whole town cut up into building lots. Property owners were jubilant. Like a bolt from the blue came the Panic of '73 and the bubble burst. Picks and shovels were thrown down, the half laid tracks abandoned and the shacks and the shanties that had housed the workers deserted. Erie stock slumped to one-tenth of its face value, the company became insolvent and the whole project was abandoned, never to be resumed—a blow that definitely retarded the town's growth. When the Erie did come through it

came in such fashion that it was of little attraction to commuters who were to pin their salvation to the Montclair Lackawanna.

With all hope in this quarter vanished, a group of interested Caldwell merchants organized and built a branch line from Great Notch—because over this terrain least grading was necessary. They negotiated with the Erie to operate a train over this roadbed but the scheme did not work well, and they finally turned over all equipment to the Erie which ran the first official train on August 3, 1892. In this way the Veronaites, though living within the charmed circle of commuting distance from New York, were cheated of their birthright of commuting without benefit of trolley.

Schools

SCHOOL history in Verona goes back as far as 1770 albeit a bit vaguely. We know in that year there were two log buildings in Horseneck used for schooling, one in West Caldwell and one in Vernon, but exactly where we do not know. In 1798, at the time of the formation of Horseneck Township, the N. J. Legislature created nine school districts which foreshadowed later political divisions, Caldwell, North Caldwell, West Caldwell, Fairfield, Clinton, Franklin, Westville, Vernon Valley and Cedar Grove. The Legislature provided that a school house must be erected to be financed by a property tax and that there was to be "Instruction by a qualified teacher for a specified term."

The first exact information we have is of the school house erected in 1816 on what is now the Civic Center. Then, as now, school policy seemed to be a bone of contention for one dark night unbeknownst to the opposing faction, the school house was moved across the road and shortly thereafter on an equally dark night moved back to the original spot by the opposing team.

In 1831, this building was replaced by a more substantial one. This was familiarly known as The Little Red School and consisted of but one room that accommodated fifty children. When school opened in 1872, everyone was just so proud because all of twenty-six children were registered. Occupying the center of the room was a huge stove of uncertain temperament. This required careful and constant attention. Frequently it smoked the geography class right out. Often lessons began around the stove in an atmosphere of suffocating ashes for the first thing on the day's program was shoveling on coal and bringing out ashes. Around the stove and facing it sat the smaller children whose ears and cheeks were toasted to a turn by the hot fire. On the sides of the room facing the windows were

the older children. The desks and seats were rough planks crudely put together. In front of the fire, the traditionally severe schoolmaster without benefit of psychology held forth with a ready rule in his hand.

John L. Johnson and William Jacobus were the trustees of the first school. The roster of early teachers runs about as follows: Judge Johnson 1870, Bogardus 1872-1874, B. F. Gallup 1874-76, William Bortic 1876-77, William L. Scott 1877, H. H. Rusby, Wilcox, and Miller about 1880. Later women took the place of men as teachers and the names of Hattie Hedden (Mrs. Gore), Alice Braino (Mrs. Becker), and Kate B. Dobbs are still remembered. In addition to the public school was Mr. Noll's school in Caldwell—located at 253 Bloomfield Avenue. Many Verona children early in the nineteenth century, including Clarence Hedden for so many years principal of the Caldwell High School, walked there and back daily. The average attendance at this school, as Mr. Hedden remembers it, was about forty children.

There was also a school "at the Mountain" meaning the top of the hill between Montclair and Verona and several people now living, remember hearing it mentioned. Mrs. Luttgen's father spoke of going to school "at the Mountain."

The following quotation is taken from the Montclair Trust Co. News Letter of February 1934, by H. F. Bourne, and throws light on this interesting old school.

The Mountain House

"In 1838, Warren S. Holt opened an ambitious private boarding school for boys and girls, called 'The Mount Prospect Institute.' This occupied a large building at the crest of the Mountain, near the present Montclair-Verona boundary.

"The school was splendidly equipped for its period. The boys wore a uniform of dark blue cloth, pantaloons and a single-breasted coat which buttoned up to the throat with ten bright gilt buttons.

"A religious atmosphere was rigidly maintained. The pupils were required to read the Bible every day and on Sundays the entire student body, accompanied by the teachers marched six miles to attend the services at the Caldwell Presbyterian Church, a religious exercise which was not appreciated by the pupils in inclement weather.

"The school was not a fortunate venture for Mr. Holt as it was perhaps too ambitious for the neighborhood. From 1844 to 1845, he associated himself with Jas. H. Randall, principal of the Bloomfield Academy.

"In the meantime the building became known as the 'Mountain House' when F. L. Parkhurst established a hostelry there in 1843. After it left his (Mr. Holt's) hands, the building changed ownership many times, and was even a tobacco factory for a short time. The old building with so many memories is now being demolished."

During the Spring and Summer of 1881 under the leadership of Dr. Whitehorne, Herman Hornfeck, William Jacobus and Judge J. L. Johnson who had formerly taught mathematics in the Newark High School and was now on the bench of the Court of Common Pleas, a campaign was begun for a new school. In 1882 the school was completed at a cost of $12,500. Mr. F. J. Wilson, familiarly known as "Tug," from Albany Normal School was Principal for about fifteen years. Tug used to sit in an old swivel chair whose springs were not all they should be. For additional support, yards and yards of cord were wound about them and Mr. Gustav Cimiotti still remembers how two small boys, (by way of "expressing themselves" in the modern manner) secretly cut those cords early one morning—with results to the principal all too clearly foreseen. For a short while the old building housed Mrs. Stemmles' candy store, one of the institutions of its day. Later this building was condemned and sold for $20. The lumber was used in a building on Hamilton Road. Sic transit gloria mundi. The new school building served all grades from kindergarten through high school until the new High School was erected in the next century.

And So - - -

The Borough of Verona - 1907

FROM what the present generation remembers, we can perhaps reconstruct and visualize the Vernon Valley of a hundred years ago. The oldest of them can recall all the significant changes in the last three quarters of a century. They have seen Bloomfield Avenue grow from just a dirt country road to one of New Jersey's main arteries of traffic. They remember when the stage brought the mail up from Newark on its daily trip and how the postmaster would lock the doors keeping the crowd outside while he sorted the mail. They remember this story in particular about one of the postmasters, one who in the course of his daily handling of the mail gradually picked up all the current gossip—who was sick, and who had died—who was being born and who was being buried. On this particular day, long-bearded Frank Goble, with a keen sense of humor of his own, a real dirt farmer, who rather enjoyed invading the parlor on the day his wife was entertaining the sewing circle bringing with him the smell of the barnyard, approached the window and asked for his mail—a post card. He read it in silence and stuck it in his pocket. Unable to control himself any longer, the postmaster leaned over and said, "Are you goin' ?" This became one of the classic stories of Verona of that day.

Some of the women recall how in their mothers' days one of the things the sewing circle pointed to with pride was the first street lighting system. They had badgered the very reluctant town fathers into erecting cedar posts up and down the old road so that they might set thereon kerosene lamps. They even went so far as to hire a man to trim the wicks and keep the chimneys clean.

These older people remember also Dr. Bone's house—a story and a half frame building located in the marshy land in front of where the High School now stands. Here grew boneset and tansy and other herbs he himself may have gathered. Here children came to play, and peel off and chew the calamus leaves.

There is no record of a separate contingent of soldiers leaving Vernon for the Civil War. The boys from here went as part of the Horseneck group and Clarence Hedden recalled swinging on his gate at the junction of Derwent and Claremont Avenues and watching the volunteers march down the Old Road—to glory.

Mr. Hassel Davenport tells the story of how his father, George Davenport, ran away to enlist when he was fifteen and how he was brought back by his father only to run away a second time two years later, this time with more success.

It was Archibald Davenport, George Davenport's father, who bought twenty-one acres at the foot of the Penitentiary hill on the north side of the Old Road just opposite where Fells Road now joins Bloomfield Avenue, from James, alias Bossy Randle, whose holdings extended west into Caldwell and north into Cedar Grove. Randle had originally been a butcher in London and now farmed with his two sons, James who lived with his father, and William who ran a furniture business in Newark. The Davenports still have in their possession an old deed to one acre of this property which conveyed the land from the Widow Caty Campbel who couldn't sign her name so just made "Her Mark," to James Randle. The land had been deeded to her by Mapes Campbel who in turn had received it from Isaac Riker by deed bearing the date January ninth, 1794 thus establishing the Rikers as one of the F.F.V.'s — first families of Verona.

On this same tract about where the east bank of the Erie Cut now is, there was originally an old tavern where tradition says Lafayette stopped on his second visit to the United States early in the nineteenth century, when he came upon the invitation of the new government. He was on his way to Morristown and is reputed

to have been traveling in the Randle family coach, the only one of its kind in the Valley, thus conferring on them a distinction far beyond their fellows. As this distinguished equipage was passing through West Caldwell the good citizens, in a burst of enthusiasm fired a salute from an old gun, a relic of the War for Independence. For the gun—one last glorious gesture. For the Randle horses, unused to the military, sheer tragedy. They bolted, breaking a shaft of the coach. Jumping into the breach, one of the native sons dashed into the ravine, returning presently with a hickory sapling with which he deftly mended the break almost before the General knew what had happened. And the Randle Coach and occupants proceeded on its way to Morristown.

Some fifty years ago when the grading was being done on the site of this tavern some large copper pennies that had been in circulation over a hundred years ago were turned up. George Washington also must have passed this way enroute from headquarters in Cranetown to Morristown after the defeat of Long Island. The only Washington story told in connection with Vernon is the one of the section boss who, during the construction of the Erie at Great Notch said his gang dug up a tarnished silver pen knife bearing the name of George Washington.

Continuing down the hill, were the Kents, and Dennis McCarthy's house where the Service League is now located, and Mrs. Kiesler's store where needles and pins, odds and ends, a little of this and a little of that, were sold. The sign in front of her house read "Mrs. Kiesler, Milliner." Her husband mended shoes in a little shop at the point of Pine Street and Bloomfield Avenue. Then came the Alexander Gould property. He had come from New York with his family, Sarah, Emmie, Lucy, Alexander, and Paxton. The property was located about where the Applin Garage now stands and ran back to the Mountain and well along on Grove Avenue, almost to Personette Street. At one corner of the property near Gould and Bloomfield, Stephen Gould ran his printing office from about 1824 to 1830. Here he printed law books and printers' blanks.

What is left of the old Gould mansion now stands behind Gemmell's Tailor Shop, but much of its former glory has disappeared. Originally it boasted of a broad piazza across the front, decorated with elaborate iron grill work which blossomed into a mass of wistaria every spring, but this was later torn away. There was a long, impressive, box-lined driveway leading in from Bloom-

field Avenue. This was the show place of Verona and for many years was the heart of Verona's social life. On its front porch congregated all the young people of the town.

Adjacent to the Gould property was located The Grove which later gave Grove Avenue its present name. Here in addition to a pleasant grove of trees were two ponds where frogs croaked in the spring time and good springs bubbled up, and beds of watercress grew. This was the rendezvous for all the local celebrations, church picnics, club outings, and most particularly the Community Fourth of July Celebrations. The name of Peckmantown Road now gave way to Gould Lane.

At this time the Brush Factory was on the other side of the Road adjoining the Canniff property—in between what is now East and West Lincoln Streets. The present Mr. Roland Jacobus' grandfather, Lemuel, an Assemblyman from New York, a friend of the Stuyvesant family, came here for his health about 1830. He bought a large farm along the Old Road about opposite the present factory, married a Gould and although a printer (or bookbinder) by trade started the Jacobus' on four generations of brush making. At first, the house and factory stood about opposite Rockland Terrace. Later for a short time, the factory was moved down to Corby Lane, Lakeside Avenue, about opposite the Catholic Church. Behind the factory was the mill race with its row of willows, a favorite playground of the children. Then it moved back opposite the present factory just east of Forest Avenue, on property bought from Caleb Baldwin. Finally it moved across the road to its present location.

In the early days, the salesmen would load up a covered peddler's wagon with scrubbing brushes, horse brushes, paint brushes, et al, for a two weeks' trip covering New York, New Jersey or eastern Pennsylvania. Much of the business was carried on by barter. In payment for their brushes they brought back a bolt of calico, a sack of flour, or maybe a tub of butter. These all went to replenish the stock in the Company Store where the employees ran accounts that in many cases took the place of wages. The workers were often boarded at old Mr. Jacobus' house and as was the custom of the time, all sat around the same table.

The old account books dating back almost a hundred years with their meticulous entries now faded, reveal on their yellowing pages some interesting things. We know that originally the town was

called Vernon or Vernon Valley. Toward the middle of the last century, application for a local Post Office under that name was made to the Federal Government but because of the existence of another Vernon in New Jersey, the name had to be changed and so we became Verona, by vote of the citizens. This change is noted in the old Jacobus records. The entries prior to May 1857 are headed Vernon and the later ones Verona. The Verona Post Office was established February 19, 1857 in the general store with Joel D. Mead, the first postmaster. On April 1, 1914, the Verona Post Office became a branch of the Montclair Office.

Here's another interesting item: twenty-one days' work received $11.92. In other words a man earned about fifty cents a day —but so did Elijah Hedden's oxen that worked in 1860 only half a day—for the same stipend. Many of the early accounts were figured in shillings and pence instead of American currency.

Below the Brush Factory, while still on the south side of Bloomfield Avenue, was the Caleb Baldwin house where Austin Jacobus lived and below them lay the Dobbins property. The old homestead is the house at 687 Bloomfield Avenue between South Prospect and East Lincoln recently presented with a new facade of two stores. This is probably the oldest standing house in Verona and belonged to Isaac Dobbins who was in Vernon as early as 1790. He had two sons Newton and Soverel; and two daughters Elizabeth and Susan, familiarly called Aunt Libby and Aunt Susie, who were never known to have missed a single church service. Between them they owned pretty much all of the slope west of the Lake. Harrison Dobbins owned right up the hill to Forest Avenue at one time. There is still a stone wall standing that Harrison Dobbins built to mark the west boundary of his property just up the hill from Forest Avenue. He and his cousin Newton deeded twenty-five feet through this property from the Lake up the hill for the purpose of making a thoroughfare, known now as Harrison Avenue. In 1850 on the corner of South Prospect and Bloomfield Avenue, Newton Dobbins built the house which has since been moved in to 11 South Prospect Street. The little shop next to this house now used by Mr. Weingartner for plumbing supplies was originally part of the church and was used for Sunday School rooms. Later the council met there. Harrison Dobbins's house was on Lakeside Avenue next to the Pease's place.

Next to Dobbins's house was the Methodist Parsonage and

below that John Simonson's blacksmith shop. The brick building now standing was erected only after the old shop had been burned down,—by some one with a grudge against its owner says Mrs. Grundy. Across the road was the horseshoeing and wheelwright shop kept by Whelock Canfield. His shop stood under the big apple tree just east of Davenport's market.

The first village store dates back to 1834 when John and Caleb Baldwin ran their General Store without let or hindrance from any competitor. By 1850, Alex Gould had entered the field and being no mean raconteur, his store soon became the popular meeting place for the swapping of yarns, and the forum where all current topics from village gossip to the affairs of the nations could be discussed over the cracker barrel. Successors to John and Caleb Baldwin were Smith C. Ward and C. H. Baldwin, Joel D. Mead and Sam Barber. It was during his occupancy that the building burned—in 1867. In the same year William L. Scott started rebuilding a store. By 1874 Will Scott had a partner, Bennet. Before this store came under the management of Charles S. Simonson, Douglas and Crane are also mentioned as storekeepers. Shortly after Simonson took over the store the Post Office was transferred from the General Store to the Drug Store. This was during Cleveland's administration. Mr. W. T. Rich was officially postmaster, but during his frequent absences Mr. Pitt Johnson did the work. Later Tug Wilson was postmaster and Lizzie Kent his assistant.

These together with stuttering Billy Jacobus' store on the corner of Corby Lane made up the shopping facilities of the town. There was an itinerant butcher, Aaron Bentley DeCamp who came with his meat wagon to your door periodically and there was—to cap the climax—Clam Jimmy, born James Avery, and his equally famous or infamous wife, Clam Maggie. Clam Jimmy was a born trader, trading in every thing he could legitimately lay hands on, with clams his specialty. Every week saw the dilapidated wagon with its curtains in shreds, threatening momentarily to disintegrate, drawn by his blind horse, and driven by either Jimmy or Maggie in varying stages of inebriation, peddling their clams. Maggie, not unacquainted with the gutter and the bottle, in addition to being Jimmy's helpmeet, goes down in history as being the best cook the Penitentiary ever had.

On the northeast corner of Grove and Bloomfield the Methodist Church was located. Old Dr. Bone had donated this property and

the Church was founded by Duane Beach. For a good many years there had been no place to worship in Horseneck but the Caldwell Presbyterian Church. The Methodists were the first to organize in Vernon. William Duane Beach from Livingstone had been "converted" at a camp meeting in the neighborhood of Vernon. After a period of intense meditation and study he was given his license to preach whereupon he conducted a series of meetings at the home of Lucas Baldwin, corner of Sunset and Prospect Avenues. His congregation soon outgrew these quarters and arrangements were made (under protest from certain trustees, who were reputed to be rigid Calvinists) to use the school room.

"The indignant trustees were present at the first meeting, for the purpose of protesting, if there were need against such innovations, but strange as it may seem, the unction of the Spirit came upon them so mightily, that they got to shouting with their Methodist neighbors before the meeting closed."

Later, however, opposition broke out again at using the school house for religious purposes. Mr. Ryder, pastor of the Church in 1893 tells the story this way: "In the discussion that followed various opinions were expressed, notably that of Dr. Bone, a German. Said he: 'If de Methodists cannot haf de schoolhouse, ve vill get a superscription and build a church.' " This remark so oddly expressed was the first suggestion regarding a Methodist Church in Verona. At first the group was organized into a class and connected with the Methodist Church of Bloomfield often led by the Rev. J. N. Crane. On January 18, 1833, the Board of Trustees decided that each of them should take a subscription paper and solicit donations of money, time and materials. The drive was successful enough to warrant their incorporation under the laws of New Jersey with the following Board of Trustees: President, Stephen J. Gould, John D. Baldwin, Cornelius Gould, Mathias Wheaton and Isaac Dobbin.

The next problem confronting them was a suitable site. On March 11, 1833 a quarter of an acre on the corner of Peckmantown (Grove) Road and the Old Road was deeded to the Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church by Dr. and Mrs. Hester Bone for the consideration of $1.00. On June 16, 1833, the cornerstone was laid; the contract for carpenter work was given to Anthone Brown of Spring Garden and in the spring of 1834, the building was completed at a cost of $1,200. The building was dedicated by Bishop James.

Charles Smith presented the church with its first Bible that he himself had bound. There was a gallery running around three sides of the building, square, with no decorations of any kind. The pulpit, reached by a precarious flight of stairs from either side, was located near the fourth wall. The windows were plain clear glass and had shutters. The gallery was removed and a steeple added when the building was remodeled in 1873.

Well along in the century a controversy arose between the older and younger members as to whether the old custom of having men and women sit on separate sides of the church should be abandoned. It resulted in a victory for the younger generation whereupon "one of the trustees, noted for his caustic tongue, remarked: 'Well here I go to sit with my old hen,' and he picked up his pew cushion, his Christian Advocate, silk topper, red bandana handkerchief, and marched across the front of the church to sit beside his wife."

For many years there was only one church in Verona but as the century closed two new groups appeared. Organization of the First Congregational Church was begun on the fifth of March 1896 at a meeting at the home of Judge John S. Rogers and completed on May 12, 1896. The first trustees were Charles Kent, Charles Jaeger, J. E. Williams, Elmer E. Brooks, David Brooks and John Hamson. At first, meetings were held in the Verona Club

House, Bloomfield and Derwent Avenues but within a short time a building was erected which was replaced in 1914-15 by the present building.

On December 11, 1894, the incorporation of the Verona Presbyterian Church was completed in Johnson's Hall at Grove and Bloomfield Avenues. The question of organization had been under consideration since 1892 when a small group led by Hon. Judge J. L. Johnson had circulated a subscription list.

There were about six ministers who served up to about 1909. Then Rev. P. A. Chamberlain served the Church over a period of twenty years to 1929 when Rev. C. G. Richards, D.D. began his ministry.

The Lutheran, Episcopal and Catholic Churches came at a still later date and are not part of the picture of Verona in the nineteenth century.

But the most widely known landmark of all was the Mill. It lent color and atmosphere to the village for years. Such an excellent reputation had it that a line of covered wagons from as far afield as Sussex County often extended up the Old Road as far as the Dobbins' place waiting their turn to have their grain ground. As to who built the first mill there is some disagreement. Some believe that Dr. Bone built the first mill which was sold to Alfred Happing who in turn sold it to the Messrs. Corley after which it passed into the hands of Thomas Ettenburrow. Others believe that Thomas E. Ettenburrow, grandfather of the present Borough Clerk, built it in 1830. He was passing through Vernon on his way to Morristown when his professional eye (he had been a miller in England) caught sight of the possibilities at the Lakeside. He replaced Dr. Bone's dam, which was nothing more than a lot of stones thrown across the brook, with a more permanent one, built a double road leading down to the mill and out again to the main road, and also built a house for the miller's family. Later the family moved across the road next to the Hedden Place at Claremont and Bloomfield Avenues. At the mill, a four story building about sixty feet square, corn and wheat were ground between two big mill stones. Oats were ground for cattle only, inasmuch as oatmeal was not considered fit for human use. About 1868 or '69, the mill and lake property was sold to Cornelius Jacobus and in 1875 it changed hands again when it was bought by Gustav and Ferdinand Cimiotti

and Herman Hornfeck, and operated as a grist mill by Rezo Worman and William Slayback until late in the century.

The next owner of this property was The Montclair Water Company of which Norman Dike was president. They bought it from the Cimiottis and Hornfecks and in turn sold it to John C. Crevier, the father of Mrs. Ralph North. He had become familiar with Verona while boarding summers with DeWitt Clinton and in 1888 bought the Carvallo place with eighteen acres. The lane leading to the house later became Mountainview Road when Ralph North developed this whole section after he succeded in getting Park Avenue put through the property in the early part of the next century. This was hooked up with that portion of Butterstown Road now known as Sunset Avenue.

The Birdseye property of twenty-six acres, which had originally come down from Hiram Cook adjoined the Crevier property and was later purchased by Stephen Bergdol. This was the start of the development known as Wayland. He later bought the Crane property of some thirty acres, which is adjacent to the present Montclair Golf Club.

When John Crevier bought the Lake, he acquired the mill pond together with some eight hundred feet on Bloomfield Avenue and about thirty acres running from the head of the lake up to the top of the mountain at the Essex Fells line. At this time Hiram Cook owned some of the eastern shore, and a few of the residents along Lakeside Avenue owned some ground under the pond. It

had apparently been the intention of John Crevier to accumulate this property and build a hotel near Bloomfield Avenue.

In 1898, the property again changed hands when it was sold to a corporation formed by David and John Slayback, (Anson Augustus) Gus Voorhees and Charles A. Williams. These men developed the property somewhat and ran it as a picnic ground for some years. David Slayback was then manager and the Lake was a popular rendezvous for champion skaters and many famous races were staged here. In the course of the Lake's development, the old dam of Dr. Bone's day had been replaced four times, each time with a bigger and more substantial one. Its present development dates from the time that the Essex County Park Commission took it over in 1927. A group of public spirited citizens worked long and hard to put this idea across and to negotiate the sale. At the time the Company sold out to the Essex Park Commission, the property owners along the west side of the Lake also sold their rights to the Park Commission. Among these were the Hornfecks and Cimiottis.

In July of 1861, Mrs. Francesca Cimiotti with her mother and five children came to Verona from New York City. At first they lived above Dr. Personette's office but later rented a cottage from Alex Gould. This was located on Bloomfield Avenue between Gould Street and Grove Avenue.

In 1864 Herman H. Hornfeck from New York City bought the present Hornfeck residence at 86 Lakeside Avenue. This house had probably been built in the early half of the nineteenth century and was owned at the time by a Mr. Levine. Mrs. Albion Barter (Emma Jane Pease) remembered playing there as a child in 1848 while the house was being built so that this house is now almost one hundred years old.

Mr. Hornfeck rented this house to Mrs. Francesca Cimiotti, when she left the Gould cottage. She was to be his future mother-in-law. In February 1866, Herman Hornfeck married Anna C. Cimiotti and since that time the house has always been the Hornfeck homestead. Altogether up to the present time, five generations of this family have lived in Verona.

Along the west side of the Lake on Corby Lane were the Cornelius Jacobus, the Harrison Dobbins, the Pease, Barters, Hornfecks, later the Gustave Cimiottis, in 1881 the Lindsleys and

Thomas Neary. In 1881, Gustave Cimiotti bought the property adjacent to the Hornfeck property just south of it on Lakeside Avenue and built his home at 92 Lakeside Avenue.

Possessing much dramatic interest were the sea-going Peases. Gathered on the shore of the Lake, at the foot of the present Pease Avenue, was a small group of old sea captains,—Captain Wm. Pease, Captain Frederick Perkins, who lived with him, and Captain William Barter who married Captain Wm. Pease's daughter.

Captain William Pease had brought his family here from Brooklyn in 1847 with the frank purpose of preventing his sons from following in his footsteps and going to sea—with but little success however—for John A., his oldest boy left the quiet little hamlet that was to entice him from the sea when he was only sixteen, shipped on a sailing vessel bound for South America and by twenty-one was in possession of his master's license and captain of an old windjammer. He followed the sea, seeing little of Verona until his retirement in 1899 after the disaster to the "General Slocum," the excursion boat that was burned with its cargo of some thousand souls. Capt. Pease then commanded the steamer "Grand Republic," sister ship to the "Slocum." With him in the pilot house in summer and at his home in Verona during the winter the Captain kept three parrots almost human in their intelligence. One of them lived over sixty years with the Captain and the other two at least forty.

The original Capt. Pease had purchased a large tract of land running up the hill from the West Side of the Lake almost to the present Essex Fells line. The homestead was on the corner of Corby Lane, sometimes known also as Pleasant Valley Way, and the present Pease Avenue. Later Gilbert Pease, a younger brother born in Verona, with Clinton Baldwin developed all this property under the name of Sunnyside Heights.

One other son became Baptist minister and the Captain himself was actively interested in the formation of the Caldwell Baptist Church which was organized in the home of Sarah E. Underhill of West Orange in June 1848. The window in the front of the present Church in Caldwell is a memorial to William and Caroline Pease who were two of the twelve charter members. From July 1848 until the building was completed in 1852, Sunday School services were held in the Verona School House.

The second of the maritime trio, Capt. Barter, conducted a shipping office in South Street, New York City, and had come to Verona from Knox County, Maine. He had had a colorful life beginning with his first voyage from Boston to China when he was but thirteen, through the days when he sailed between New Orleans and Liverpool, up through the Civil War when he ran between New York and the Mediterranean ports. The climax came with his rescue of the Barque "Lady Gordon" for which he was awarded a gold watch by the British Government "in testimony of his humane services, 27 December 1867."

Across the lake lived Hiram Cook. Captain Cook was something of a real estate promoter, carpenter and builder and came to Verona about the time the Erie promised a boom. When that petered out, he bought property along the east side of the Lake and developed it into the very popular Eden Wilde Amusement Park. The Lake was larger than we know it now. Rowboats and canoes could go all the way to the West Orange line. It even boasted of two steamboats. This spot became the favorite picnic ground for churches, Sunday Schools, and clubs within a large radius. Long before the appearance of trolley cars, Clayton and Hough's and Job DeCamp's stage coaches drawn by two or four horses were coming and going all day long. Later on after Cook sold out, the Grange Picnic was a high spot. This was the annual outing of the three Grange Associations from Essex County and the Hanover and Lyons Farms Granges from Union County. They had originally celebrated at Tuttle's Grove in Morris County near the Swinefield Bridge. Anywhere from five to ten thousand real dirt farmers with their families in wagonloads and stage loads began arriving the night before from a radius of thirty miles or more. Festivities including games and athletic contests spiced with plenty of eating and drinking (not alcoholic) and neighborhood gossip lasted from early dawn till dewy eve. About 1901 these picnics were transferred to Verona Lake. At first they drew crowds averaging twenty or twenty-five thousand but later with the coming of the automobile and changing social conditions they degenerated into little more than a fakir's show,—where rides in a sightseeing auto bus furnished as much excitement as rides in an aeroplane today. In 1921, they were changed to Crystal Lake and in 1924 they abandoned the old tradition altogether.

On the east side of the Lake were the Cooks, the Seilers, the Baldwins, the Smiths, and the Williams. The Seiler property lies

along Bloomfield Avenue where Mr. Schmid who married a Miss Seiler kept his Hardware Store just about opposite Malvern Street. Twice this store was moved back to allow for widening the Avenue.

The largest holders of land in this section were probably Charles Smith and the Williams. Charles Smith, the founder of the family came from England on a sailing vessel in 1833. He "met his fate" on board and married her in the Horseneck Presbyterian Church on September 9, 1833. He brought his bride to Vernon and bought up all the land from Butterstown Road on the south to Claremont Road on the north. About one acre of this land he set aside to be the site of a railroad station when the Erie came through.

He was possessed of a certain versatility,—a bookbinder by trade, he turned his hand first to farming albeit with an air. His granddaughter, Mrs. Burd, remembers his coming in from the field and removing the high silk hat he always wore and wiping and mopping the sweat of honest toil from his brow with a flaming silk handkerchief. He lost everything in the panic of 1833 but nothing daunted, made a fresh start in a new line. He bought up mill-ends and sold them for paper-stock, a lucrative activity, for on it he founded a new fortune. The homestead was built on the corner of what is now Brookdale and Bloomfield Avenues, where it still stands, and the old building that used to stand next to it was where his business was carried on. In 1865, he formed a partnership with his son-in-law, J. E. Williams, under the name of Smith and Williams. Three years later this firm dissolved. When he died he left the business to his two daughters, each of whom married a Williams, unrelated. Cornelius Williams carried on the business with clippings bought from the Ferris Corset Company (of mid-Victorian popularity) and J. E. Williams in 1878 opened a store on Claremont Avenue at the head of Church Street that soon became the focal point of the whole countryside's sewing activities. He sold mill ends out of big pound bins. This was known as The Rag Shop and drew its patrons from miles around. Strings of carriages from Boonton, Passaic, Bloomfield, and the Oranges lined the road. People often made a day of it, arriving in stage loads bringing their lunch with them. Along with the business that outlived him is one of his old pet jokes that still is remembered by his family. Whenever pressed too hard for an explanation of "where he was going" his favorite answer was: "Oh, just down the road to get a flour barrel to make a hen coop to keep the dog in."

Just across from Brookdale Avenue is the Stonham home. This family came to Verona about 1898 and at that time their lawn sloped right down across the road. As the road was widened, more and more of their terrace had to be chopped away until finally a retaining wall had to be built just to keep the house from slipping away too. Mrs. Travis, who was a Stonham, recalls how when a fire alarm came in it was often necessary for someone to chase all over town trying to locate Mr. Johnson's grocery wagon,—because his horse was the fire horse. The result was often an embarrassing delay before arriving at the fire.

A little further west on this side of the Avenue on the corner of Church Street, is the old Kiefer place built about 1850. The Kiefers came from East New York, lived a short while in Orange and then moved to Vernon. When one of the daughters became Mrs. Brady, Mrs. Kiefer in order to keep her family together, gave her the adjoining property where the Brady house was built and where she has lived ever since.

Along the top of the hill where Mt. Prospect Avenue now runs, the Baldwins settled. The present generation of Baldwins in town is the fourth generation to be identified with the community. Lucas Baldwin, grandfather to the present generation, lived on Butterstown Road near its junction with Mt. Prospect Avenue in the house now occupied by the Hubbells which has been rebuilt twice during the last seventy-five years. A short way from his home was that of Marshall Baldwin, his cousin whose house was rebuilt about thirty years ago by David Douglas who still keeps the old home.

On the other side of the Old Road in the northeast quarter of town from a map dated 1887, we find the following families listed: Martins, Ogletrees, J. A. Priest, Hasting, DeVile, Julius Fentzle, Harper Ronnell, Jacob Pier, Harrington, James Avery, (alias Clam Jimmy), Siegler, Dimmock, and Sherry or Cherry, and Jim Styles.

In the northeast corner of town near the present boundary of Verona and Cedar Grove was a sawmill run by Nicholas Stagg. The dam here had been thrown up across the Peckman River as early as 1790, forming the ponds now called Bronze and McConnell Ponds. Here they made shoe pegs, brush handles, and spokes and hubs. Here also the farmers brought their trees cut from the hillsides to be sawed into boards.

In 1876, this property was turned over to William Grosch who founded the American Bronze Powder Company, one of Verona's

oldest and most successful industries. In that year he came here with his wife and five children. With him also came a young man, Henry Ahlborn who afterward became President of the company. The property on Grove Avenue comprising thirty-two acres of land along the Peckman River, and the home of the Stagg Family were purchased. A factory was built and the American Bronze Company became a thriving industry. It was the first mill of its kind to be built in America and for a number of years was the only one of its kind.

Owing to a spinal disease contracted during the Civil War, Mr. Grosch became an invalid and retired from active business. Soon after locating here, the American Bronze Company became a stock company with a New York office at 6 Murray Street and with Henry Ahlborn as President until his death in 1933. During Theodore Roosevelt's administration when the question of a tariff on German bronze threatened their business, Mr. Ahlborn personally interviewed the President and secured a satisfactory settlement of the question.

At the present time about fifty men are employed and at no time during the present depression has business been discontinued. Two daughters of Mr. Grosch are living in Verona at the present time,—Mrs. Wm. Pitt Johnson and Mrs. David Slayback. A third daughter, Mrs. Wilfred Harrison, lives at Stockton, N. J.

There was still a third mill in Verona. Over on Butterstown Road, just at the junction with the present Park Street William Powley built his mill. He had been a blacksmith since about 1826 and with the help of the mill branched out into the making and polishing of iron steps for carriages.

It is difficult to say just how much Verona owes to Anna DeGolier for her vision and imagination coupled with the responsibility and hard work of establishing the Library. She once said: "Statistics show that there is the greatest percent of insanity among farmers' wives who have few associations and fewer books. What a woman needs is to get out among people and to have something about which to think as she goes about her household duties." This stamps her as one of the progressive and farseeing spirits. For this was back in 1890 when Verona was little more than a quiet hamlet of farmers "whose only exit to the world was either by way of Husk's stages once an hour (and never after seven at night) or else walk." This furnished the inspiration for her life work and was the seed whose fruits we enjoy today.

Anna DeGolier came to the estate of her great grandfather Banta and settled in Verona in 1874. Ten years later she opened a studio in Baldwin's Drug Store in Montclair where she taught portrait painting. While visiting her sister in Ohio in 1890 she came in contact with the movement spreading over the country—the formation of literary clubs for women. She became enthusiastic over the benefits of literary study to women otherwise sunk in household routine and brought the idea back to Verona. She called together all the ladies who had been members of the Athene Literary Society, an organization of both men and women which had been active from 1879, to a meeting at her home on January 24, 1892. At this first meeting, she was elected president, Mrs. Charles Williams, Vice-President, Anna Brooks, Secretary, and Mrs. B. Rogers, Treasurer, of the Isabella Literary Society of Verona.

During the early meetings, the members sewed rugs for the new Methodist Church while Miss DeGolier read aloud, but, inasmuch as the object of the organization was "to promote intellectual growth, increase knowledge, in the vital affairs of the day and cultivate the social element" the later programs were given over entirely to literary and musical numbers. The programs show an honest effort to carry out these aims for we find listed in their minutes, talks on Life in Japan, Settlement Life by Margaret Sangster, Foreign and American Homes, Yellowstone Park, and a debate: "If modern women take an interest in civic affairs, men should help solve the domestic problems."

At the fourth meeting, the records show the following motion: "that we expend the surplus funds of the club for a public library" and a second motion: "we purchase books necessary for immediate use of the club and turn them over to the Public Library." Each member contributed ten cents monthly for the benefit of the Library which was housed in the home of her sister, Mrs. Ella King, 5 Brookdale Avenue. In 1895, the books were moved to the Club House, 346 Bloomfield Avenue. Two years later they used a room in the School House and in 1899 they moved again to Judge Johnson's Building over the Drug Store where the Library remained until 1912. After a return engagement to the School House, they used a room in the Old Methodist Church Building which now housed the Fire Department until the time when that building was destroyed by fire on January 7, 1923. Within that same year, it was permanently housed in a building of its own. The Carnegie Foundation promised $11,000 if the town

would raise $11,000 for the erection of this building, which was accordingly done and the Library Building took its place in the Civic Center Group.

Miss DeGolier acted as first librarian and herself donated thirty volumes of "The World's Best Literature." She also made herself personally responsible for the monthly payments on books purchased, collecting the installments in ten, twenty-five and fifty cent pieces. Later the Public Library Association was incorporated and Miss DeGolier served as one of its directors and as a member of the Book Committee. It remained a subscription library until June 15, 1912, when it was turned over to the Borough and became The Free Public Library of Verona.

The Isabella Club continued for some twenty-two years, an integral part of the community life. Its spirit continues to function in its successor, The Verona Women's Club.

The A.L.S. which provided the nucleus for the Isabella Club was the Athene Literary Society but according to the Constitution, this was to be a secret known only to members. The public should know them only as A.L.S. In the record of their proceedings from the year 1879 to January 1888, we find the following report of their first meeting:

"October 29, 1879.

At an oyster supper held this evening at the residence of Mr. I. Newton Dobbins, it was proposed that a society be formed for the literary instruction and entertainment of the young of both sexes. Mr. H. H. Rusby was elected as chairman. The above proposition was then carried as a motion, and the chair was directed by a vote to appoint a committee of five to prepare a constitution and by-laws. The following committe was then appointed: Mrs. E. A. King, Miss Anna Smith, Miss Kitty Riker, Mr. Elias Tompkins, Mr. Edmund Condit."

At the November meeting the constitution was adopted and the following officers elected: President, Mr. Elias S. Tompkins; Vice-President, Mr. H. H. Rusby; Treasurer, Miss Anna Smith; Secretary, R. E. Hayes.

This record of their one hundred thirty-five meetings presents an interesting phase of the life of that decade and perhaps nothing is so significant of the temper of the times than a typical program chosen at random:

The 24th regular meeting held at the Parsonage on Thursday evening 27th of January 1881:

(Note: The members answered roll call with quotations from well known authors.)

D. C. Baldwin—Burns—guessed by E. H. Tompkins

Edgar Williams—Carlisle—guessed by E. H. Tompkins

Hattie Hedden—Addison—guessed by Anna Williams

Joe Heizman—Thackeray—guessed by Anna Smith

Solo and Duet—Clara Williams and J. Slayback

Reading: Melting Moments—D. C. Baldwin

Reading: Mr. Lovell Counting the Shingles on His Roof—E. S. Tompkins

Reading: Our Tom—Clara Williams

Recitation: For Love—E. S. Tompkins

Solo and Chorus: Light in the Window—J. Slayback and D. C. Baldwin

The Paper "Our Society" was read by Miss Anna Smith

Critic's Report.

It may be interesting to know who some of the members were and by what names they were later known:

Henry H. Rusby, until his death November 19, 1940, was Dean Emeritus of the Columbia Medical College

Anna Smith, later Doctor Smith, a physician of note in Montclair for many years

Anna DeGolier, founder of the Verona Public Library

Kitty Riker, who later became Mrs. H. B. Whitehorne, wife of Dr. H. B. Whitehorne

Hattie Hedden, who became Mrs. Thomas Gore

Anna V. Williams, who became Mrs. A. A. Voorhees

Hattie Goble, who became Mrs. Weisbaker

Tillie Goble, who became Mrs. Charles Jaeger

Gussie Grosch, who became Mrs. W. F. Harrison

Henrietta Grosch, who became Mrs. D. Slayback

Anna J. Condit, who became the first Mrs. Clarence E. Hedden

Emma Winans, who became Mrs. Charles S. Simonson

Clara Williams, who became Mrs. Martin Hicks

Nettie Williams, who became Mrs. David Burd

Tillie Hayes, who became the second Mrs. Clarence E. Hedden

Anna Pryme, who became Mrs. Edward Gould

Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Tompkins, Alfred Tompkins, Abbie Tompkins —The Tompkins were residents of Brooklyn and were for many years summer boarders with Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Baldwin.

Tillie Hayes, Nora Hayes, R. Elmer Hayes—Children of the Rev. John Hayes, pastor of the Verona Methodist Church for many years.

Kate B. Dobbs, who became Mrs. R. B. Worman

Miss Joe Heizman—was a resident of Greenport, L.I. She was a granddaughter of Mr. Charles Smith and cousin of Anna, Nettie and Clara Williams.

A couple of tax bills dating from 1872 and 1873 that have been preserved by the Jacobus family of Grove Avenue throw some interesting side-lights on old Verona, then still part of Horseneck. A comparison of the two bills shows a rise in the tax rate from .85 on $100 to $1.25 on $100. on county, town and school tax. This was exclusive of the District School tax. This resulted in increasing the taxes from $38.33 to $67.36. But the assessment on sixty acres located presumably on Peckmantown Road or Gould Avenue as it was more commonly known at this time had also risen from $3800 to $4500 showing a possible rise in real estate values preceding the Panic of 1873. The taxes were itemized as follows:

Dog Tax	$ .40		
Poll Tax	4.00		
County Tax, 1871	15.60	County Tax, 1873	43.00
Township Tax, 1871	9.75	Township Tax, 1873	12.00

It is interesting to note the rise in the District School tax which in '71 was $.78 to $4.80 in 1873. The road tax had also risen from $7.44 to $16.00. It looks like our familiar friend "Inflation" at work.

The method of collection is unique in the light of modern methods. We find this footnote on the bill—"Now due and payable at my house on or before the twentieth day of December and in Bankable Money. All taxes not paid at that date will have interest added at the rate of twelve percent per annum, in accordance with the Act of April 1866. The Court of Appeals in cases of

Taxation will meet at the house of Lambert Speer in the Township of Caldwell on the fourth Tuesday in November ensuing at two o'clock P. M. Road Masters' receipt for Road Tax to be evidence of payment, or of being worked."

"I will be at the following places to receive Taxes:—Mountain Gate on Thursday, December 14 from 10 A.M. to 12 M.; Verona, Scott's Store, same day, from 1 to 3 P.M.; Cedar Grove, Vreeland's Store, Friday, December 15 from 1 to 4 P.M.; at the Pinebrook Hotel, Saturday, December 16 from 10 A.M. to 12 M.; Franklin Store, the same day from 1 to 3 P.M.; Fairfield at Kierstead's Hotel, Monday, December 18 from 10 A.M. to 12 M." Apparently the tax collector had to be a good traveler.

The same family has also preserved an old deed in fading script dated "this twelfth Day June in the Year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and seventeen" conveying land from Cornelius Jacobus to Cornelius Low and Elenor his wife. It conveyed land "lying and being in the Township of Caldwell, County of Essex and state of New Jersey whereon the aforesaid Cornelius H. Jacobus now Liveth beginning in the middle of Peckmantown Road in the line of Joseph Jacobus thence turning along the middle of Said Road northwesterly nine chains and thirty links to the Line of Barnabus Simason thence north Sixty Six degrees west seventy seven chains and fifty links to the line of Noah Baldwin thence along his line Southwestardly Six Chains and Eighty two links to the line of Joseph Jacobus thence along his line South Sixty five degrees East Seventy four chains and thirty eight links to the middle of the aforesaid Road the Place of beginning containing fifty nine acres and twenty eight hundredths of an acre more or less also one at the Situate at aforesaid Lying East and West sides of Peckman River Butted and Bounded as follows: West by Land of John C. Jacobus on the South by Land of sd. John C. Jacobus and William Gould Jr. and in the East and North Sides by land of the John C. Jacobus containing two acres and fifth hundredths of an acre. Which lot is a mill Seat with a Grist mill on it (the one Equal half of which mill Seat and one Equal half of the sd. grist mill and also one Equal half of the Privilidges and advantages of one sd. mill and Seat is Conveyed in this Deed together with all and Singular the privilidges and advantages with the appurtenances to the same belonging.)" The men duly signed the contract but Elenor, being a woman, could not write and so left her mark in this fashion:

her
Elenor X Low
Mark

We have from the same Cornelius H. Jacobus a will which also sheds light on the customs, phraseology, and psychology of his times — "I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Abigail Jacobus in addition to her right of Dower at Common Law, the use of all my household goods and furniture of every kind and description during her widowhood. I give unto my beloved wife Abigail Jacobus her Bed—and Bedding and one Cow which is to be kept on the place and provided for at her disposal, Idem, I give and devise unto my Son Stephen G. Jacobus all my lands, tenements, hereditaments and Real Estate whatsoever Subject to right of dower in the Same of his Mother my said wife to him and to his heirs and assigns forever also subject to the change hereafter stated and put upon the land. Idem I give and bequeath unto my four Daughters Sarah Vanness widow of Esaac Vanness deceased, Nancy Wheaton wife of Squire Wheaton, Marion L. Condit wife of Alvin Condit and Elizabeth Williams thirty seven Dollars and fifty cents each to be paid to them at the Expiration of one year after the death of my wife their mother which is to be paid to them by my Son Stephen G. Jacobus."

Through all these years Verona had been politically, for all administrative purposes, part and parcel of Horseneck. In 1798, during Washington's administration, almost a century after its purchase from the Indians, Horseneck was separated from Newark and became the Township of Caldwell, including the present Caldwells, Fairfield, Verona, and Cedar Grove. Previously as part of the Newark settlement it came under the jurisdiction of their Magistrates and Town-meeting: but we are pretty much in the dark as to the degree in which Horseneckers participated in this government.

From 1798 until 1877—over a period of seventy-nine years—there had been one voting place in Caldwell and one in Livingston. In 1876, during Rutherford B. Hayes' Administration, it became illegal for a district to cast more than six hundred votes, so two districts had to be created. These were located, to the disgruntlement of Caldwell, in Franklin for West Caldwell and in Verona.

At the local election scheduled for March 12, 1888, local township officers were to be chosen. This was the day of the famous

blizzard and the polling place in Franklin was not opened. In Verona, however, they opened and a few citizens in the neighborhood voted,—resulting in a Democratic victory. When, however, they applied for a certificate of election it was denied them by the Republicans in office now about to be replaced. The affair dragged out in the Courts until the next Spring Election, leaving a bad taste in everybody's mouth.

Public opinion was further crystalized by the following episode. The farm wagons and heavy trucks bringing in charcoal from the Ramapos and up-state New York had worn deep ruts in the Turnpike making it almost impassable after heavy rains. The voters of Horseneck at their town meeting had by word of mouth, as most voting was then done, voted an appropriation of $10,000 for the purchase of crushed stone,—just beginning to be used for repair work on roads. Committeemen were chosen from the Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest Districts, together with the delegates at large. Samuel Dey from Fairfield, the Northwest District, was quoted as saying "Every cent of it (appropriation) will go right down in front of my place if I can get it there." At any rate, whether he was the moving spirit or not, collusion resulted in coralling all the money and using it for repairs in their section. In like manner the $10,000 appropriation of 1890 and again in 1892, were both spent in Verona. Caldwell got nothing.

Feelings ran high. A meeting of all voters was called in 1890 by M. B. Lindsley of Caldwell at the Bartlett Post G.A.R. Hall. Clarence Hedden of Verona presided and the advantages and disadvantages of the separation were discussed, the special bone of contention being the equitable division of appropriations for public improvements. The movement gained momentum during the next two years and at a special election called for 1892 the separation of the two communities was endorsed by a large majority whereupon application was made to the Legislature and the creation of Verona Township, Essex County, was approved by them on February 17, 1892. Hereafter Caldwell Borough would include the Caldwells and Fairfield, and Cedar Grove became part of Verona Township. The first Township Committee consisted of J. E. Williams, Austin Jacobus, Anthony Bowden, M. W. Jenkins, and Filmore Condit.

But this combination of Verona and Cedar Grove—the Township of Verona—was short lived. As early as 1904, agitation for a more adequate water supply particularly for fire protection was

begun. The need was especially felt in the Verona section of the Township.

Early in 1905, a committee appointed by the Verona Citizen's Union with Mr. Palm as chairman, submitted a report recommending a system owned by the community. In 1907, the East Jersey Water Company made a proposition to the Township Committee headed by Mr. Charles Ogletree, for a privately owned system. A committee was then appointed consisting of Robert Palm, D. H. Slayback, J. Edgar DeCamp and E. O. Wetten to meet with the Water Company's representatives. This committee reported "That our Township Committee take whatever steps are necessary to obtain a form of government under which we may obtain a municipal water system."

This was followed by a public meeting in Verona, as a result of which, by a vote of 224 to 75, Verona decided to withdraw from the Township of Verona and form the Borough of Verona.

A committe headed by David Slayback drew up the bill and presented it to two sessions of the State Legislature. The bill was approved by them on April 18, 1907, and confirmed by a referendum on April 30, 1907. The Borough was incorporated May 13, 1907 and at a special election held on May 28, 1907, the following officials were elected:

Mayor	Robert Palm
Councilmen	Ernest N. Bush Filmore Condit Roland A. Jacobus Carl Mau David H. Slayback William A. Smith
Assessor	Austen E. Hedden
Collector	Frank C. Goble
Clerk	Thomas Brooks

So, two centuries after its history began Verona launched on a career of her own. At present the Borough is governed by a Mayor elected every two years, and a Council of six men chosen at large every three years, with the usual Borough Collector and Treasurer, Borough Clerk and the Fire, Police, and Water Departments.

Robert Palm was chosen to be first mayor and was followed by the Rev. John R. Pratt 1909, Carl Mau 1911, David Slayback 1913-15-17, Charles W. Brower 1919, Ralph N. North 1921, and David Slayback from 1923 to the present time.

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